25

My SECRET LIFE

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I WAS A DELINQUENT • QUICKSAND ROMANCE

THE CHOICE WAS MINE

QUICKSAND ROMANCE

I MARRIED A MAN WHOM I LOVED WITH ALL MY HEART. IT WAS LOOKED UPON AS AN IDEAL MARRIAGE. WE HAD MONEY, POSITION, FRIENDS, EVERYTHING A YOUNG COUPLE DREAMS OF. BUT WITHIN A FEW MONTHS, THIS DREAM WAS SHATTERED... / MY LOVE TURNED TO HATE! MY WHOLE DESIRE TO LIVE WAS DESTROYED!! I BECAME THE VICTIM OF A MAD JEALOUSY WHICH LEFT TERROR AND TRAGEDY IN ITS WAKE. MY QUICKSAND ROMANCE PULLED ME DOWN DEEPER AND DEEPER----

HOW CAN I FACE HIS FAMILY? IT'S TERRIBLE, BUT I'M GLAD HE'S DEAD!! HE BEHAVED LIKE A MONSTER TOWARDS ME ALL OUR MARRIED LIFE AND NOW I MUST PRETEND I'M HEARTBROKEN!

A BOOK SALESMAN HAD BEEN TRYING TO SELL ME A SET A SET OF ENCYCLOPEDIA ... NOT TWO MINUTES AFTER HE HAD LEFT, ROBERT CAME BURSTING INTO THE HOUSE!

WHO WAS THAT MAN? ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT? WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE? MAKING LOVE TO YOU?

ARE YOU MAD, ROBERT? HE WAS A SALESMAN! IF I HAD ANY FRIENDS, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN DRIVEN AWAY BY NOW!!

MAD, HUH? I'VE HAD YOU WATCHED CLOSELY! I DON'T BELIEVE YOUR LITTLE STORY!! WE'RE GOING AWAY TOMORROW, AWAY FROM VISITING SALESMEN!!!

I HATE YOU, ROBERT! I HATE YOU! YOU'VE KILLED EVERYTHING IN ME THAT WAS A WOMAN!!

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NEXT ISSUE "MY SECRET LIFE" ON SALE 2nd WEEK OF JAN.

MY SECRET LIFE

IT WAS SO EASY TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ROBERT! HE WAS QUIET AND GENTLE! TALL WITH DARK HAIR AND AN ENCHANTING SMILE- I MET HIM A PARTY GIVEN BY MY AUNT ON MY NINETEENTH BIRTHDAY-----!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SPEAK TO YOU ALONE, JANET, BUT I'VE ALWAYS COME TO THE HOUSE ON LEGAL BUSINESS ONLY!

AUNT KATE THINKS THE WORLD OF YOU!! YOU'RE SO EFFICIENT AND KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT LAW!!!

MY AUNT HAD BEEN MY GUARDIAN AFTER THE DEATH OF MY PARENTS!! ROBERT KENDRICK WAS HER ATTORNEY---

I'M GLAD YOUR AUNT LIKES ME BUT HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ME?

I? I THINK YOU'VE BEEN VERY KIND TO US, AND I DO ADMIRE YOUR ABILITY!!

I HOPE WE GET BEYOND THE MUTUAL ADMIRATION STAGE, JANET!! PLEASE CALL ME ROBERT AND LET ME SEE YOU MORE OFTEN!!

YES, ROBERT! I WOULD LIKE THAT VERY MUCH!!

After the party---

IT WAS A LOVELY PARTY, AUNT KATE!! I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH!!

BOSH! I HAD AS MUCH FUN AS YOU!!! OF COURSE, I DIDN'T HAVE HIM WHISPERING IN MY EAR!!

JANET BLUSHED WHEN HIS NAME WAS MENTIONED---!!

OH, KATE, HE'S SO NICE AND WANTS TO SEE ME MORE OFTEN!!

BY ALL MEANS! IF I WERE YOUR AGE, I'D KNOW WHAT TO DO!! HE'S PRETTY CLOSE TO MY IDEA OF AN IDEAL MAN!!

WELL, IDEAL MAN OR NOT, IT'S 2:00 A.M. AND I'M VERY SLEEPY! GOOD NIGHT, DEAR!!

I'M JUST AS WIDE-AWAKE AS EVER!! IT MUST BE THE EXCITEMENT! GOOD NIGHT, AUNT KATE!!

IDEAL MAN, AUNT KATE SAID! HE'S MY DREAM MAN!! IF DREAMS WOULD ONLY COME TRUE!!!

MY SECRET LIFE

ROBERT DID COME TO SEE ME. HE OVERWHELMED ME WITH GIFTS AND ATTENTION. THEN FINALLY ONE DAY---

JANET, JANET DARLING! I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME! I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF HAVING A WIFE LIKE YOU! SOMEONE I COULD TRUST COMPLETELY!!
OH, ROBERT! YOU'VE BEEN WONDERFUL! I'VE LIVED FOR THIS MOMENT SINCE THE DAY I MET YOU!!

AUNT KATE WAS NOT SURPRISED..

I'M VERY HAPPY! WHEN DO YOU PLAN YOUR WEDDING?
IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS I CAN GET A MONTH'S LEAVE. AT THAT TIME A WE CAN GO ON A REAL HONEYMOON CRUISE!

I LIVED IN A DAZE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, MAKING ARRANGEMENTS, SENDING INVITATIONS, AND FITTING CLOTHES, SUDDENLY, ROBERT SEEMED TO GET UPSET!

WHY IS THIS MAN AROUND ALL THIS TIME? WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE SHOPPED FOR A READY-MADE WARDROBE?
HE'S AUNT KATE'S DRESSMAKER!! SHE'S BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO HAVE MY WARDROBE MADE! I COULDN'T SAY NO!!

WELL, IT CERTAINLY TAKES A LOT OF YOUR TIME!! HEREAFTER, I HOPE YOU'LL SHOP FOR YOUR OWN CLOTHES!!
YES, ROBERT! IT WON'T BE LONG, NOW! I'LL BE ALL THROUGH IN ANOTHER DAY!!

IT WAS A LOVELY WEDDING, AND IT SEEMED THAT THE WHOLE WORLD WAS HAPPY--

WE SAILED THE NEXT MORNING ON "THE WEST INDIES QUEEN" FOR OUR HONEYMOON CRUISE--

MY SECRET LIFE

LITTLE THINGS ROBERT SAID DIDN'T MAKE SENSE UNTIL THE FIRST EVENING AT THE SHIP'S PARTY. THE CAPTAIN HONORED OUR TABLE WITH HIS PRESENCE. HE WAS A CHEERFUL OLD MAN----

A TOAST TO THE LOVELIEST HONEYMOONERS I'VE SEEN IN YEARS!! MAY I HAVE THE FIRST DANCE, MRS. KENDRICKS? CAPTAIN'S PRIVILEGE YOU KNOW!!

YOU MAY NOT, CAPTAIN! SHE HAPPENS TO BE MY WIFE!

ROBERT! YOU DON'T MEAN THAT!!

I CERTAINLY DO! I WONT HAVE YOU DANCING WITH ANYONE WHO ASKS YOU! COME WITH ME!

ROBERT! DON'T BE SO CRUDE!! HOW CAN YOU? IT'S A SHIP'S CUSTOM!!

ROBERT HELD MY ARM TIGHTLY AND PRACTICALLY FORCED ME FROM THE TABLE--

I HAVEN'T BEEN DISLOYAL! DANCING WITH A MAN OLD ENOUGH TO BE MY FATHER DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING!!

I SAY IT DOES! YOU NEVER KNOW THESE OLD CODGERS!! YOUR HUSBAND COMES FIRST AND ALWAYS. NOW, LET'S HEAR NO MORE ABOUT IT!!

THE INCIDENT BLEW OVER AND IN A FEW DAYS WE REACHED HAVANA.

THIS IS SO THRILLING! ROBERT, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME HERE!!

JUST YOU AND ME!! WE'LL HAVE A GRAND TIME!!

THE NEXT DAY WE WERE ON THE BEACH.

ISN'T THIS GLORIOUS, ROBERT? THE SUN AND WATER ARE DAZZLING!

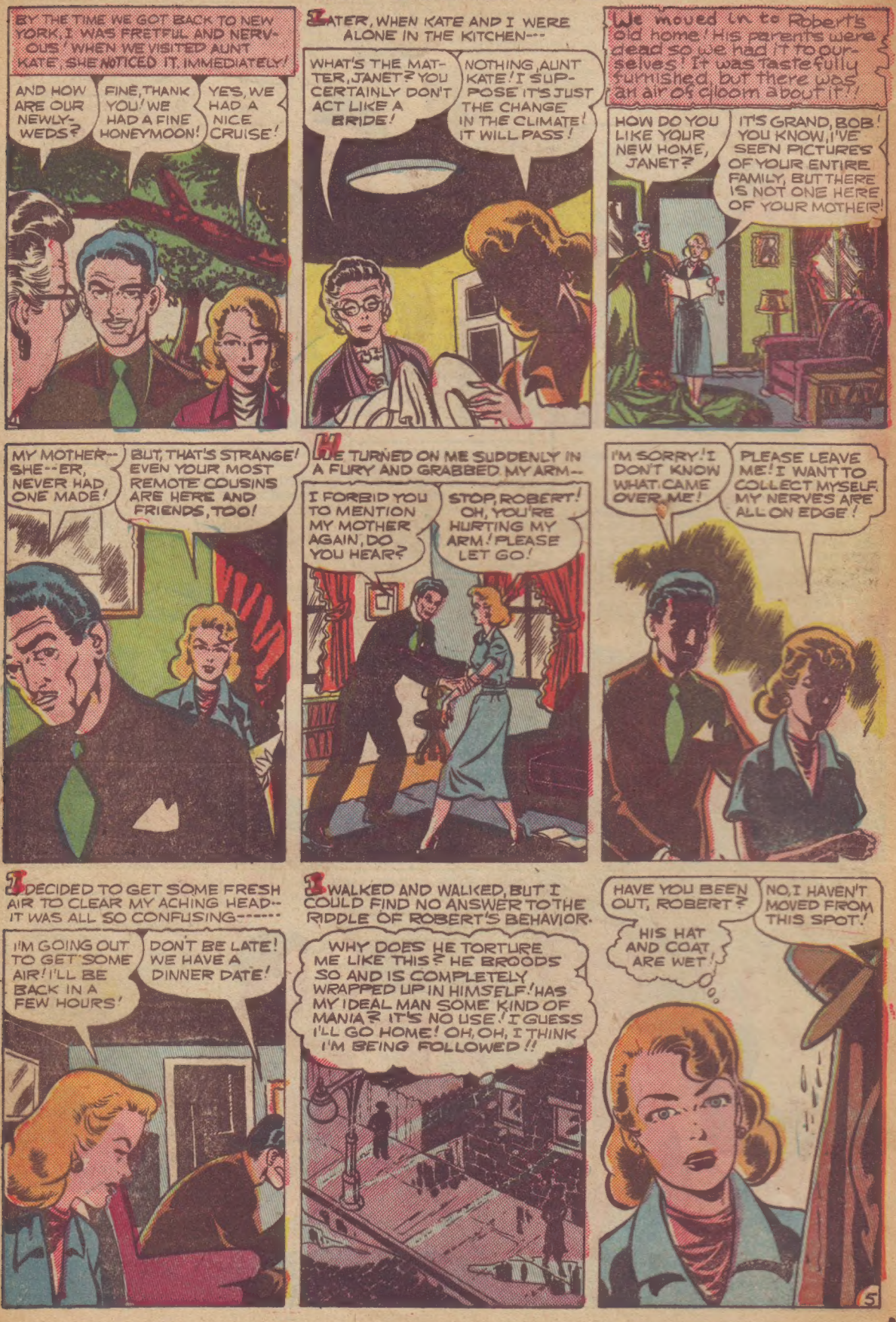
ER, DON'T YOU THINK YOU OUGHT TO COVER YOURSELF! YOUR SKIN IS SO FAIR! YOU MIGHT BURN!!

BUT THE SUN IS GOOD FOR ME AND I'D LIKE TO GET A TAN!!!

THAT SUIT IS TOO DARING! I DON'T WANT OTHER MEN LOOKING AT YOU!!

I PUT UP A BRAVE FRONT, BUT OUR HONEYMOON WAS A COMPLETE FLOP. ROBERT KEPT ME A PRISONER. I WAS NOT PERMITTED TO SEE ANYONE OR TO TALK TO ANYONE. I DIDN'T HAVE A MOMENT ALONE!! HIS JEALOUSY WAS FANTASTIC!!

MY SECRET LIFE


BY THE TIME WE GOT BACK TO NEW YORK, I WAS FRETFUL AND NERVOUS WHEN WE VISITED AUNT KATE, SHE NOTICED IT IMMEDIATELY!
AND HOW ARE OUR NEWLY-WEDS?
FINE, THANK YOU! WE HAD A FINE HONEYMOON!
YES, WE HAD A NICE CRUISE!
LATER, WHEN KATE AND I WERE ALONE IN THE KITCHEN---
WHAT'S THE MATTER, JANET? YOU CERTAINLY DON'T ACT LIKE A BRIDE!
NOTHING, AUNT KATE! I SUPPOSE IT'S JUST THE CHANGE IN THE CLIMATE! IT WILL PASS!
We moved in to Robert's old home! His parents were dead so we had it to ourselves! It was tastefully furnished, but there was an air of gloom about it!
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW HOME, JANET?
IT'S GRAND, BOB! YOU KNOW, I'VE SEEN PICTURES OF YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY, BUT THERE IS NOT ONE HERE OF YOUR MOTHER!
MY MOTHER--SHE--ER, NEVER HAD ONE MADE!
BUT, THAT'S STRANGE! EVEN YOUR MOST REMOTE COUSINS ARE HERE AND FRIENDS, TOO!
HE TURNED ON ME SUDDENLY IN A FURY AND GRABBED MY ARM--
I FORBID YOU TO MENTION MY MOTHER AGAIN, DO YOU HEAR?
STOP, ROBERT! OH, YOU'RE HURTING MY ARM! PLEASE LET GO!
I'M SORRY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME!
PLEASE LEAVE ME! I WANT TO COLLECT MYSELF. MY NERVES ARE ALL ON EDGE!
I DECIDED TO GET SOME FRESH AIR TO CLEAR MY ACHING HEAD--IT WAS ALL SO CONFUSING------
I'M GOING OUT TO GET SOME AIR! I'LL BE BACK IN A FEW HOURS!
DON'T BE LATE! WE HAVE A DINNER DATE!
I WALKED AND WALKED, BUT I COULD FIND NO ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE OF ROBERT'S BEHAVIOR.
WHY DOES HE TORTURE ME LIKE THIS? HE BROODS SO AND IS COMPLETELY WRAPPED UP IN HIMSELF! HAS MY IDEAL MAN SOME KIND OF MANIA? IT'S NO USE! I GUESS I'LL GO HOME! OH, OH, I THINK I'M BEING FOLLOWED!!
HAVE YOU BEEN OUT, ROBERT?
NO, I HAVEN'T MOVED FROM THIS SPOT!
HIS HAT AND COAT ARE WET!
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MY SECRET LIFE

THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WERE A NIGHTMARE! MY IDEAL MAN HAD BECOME A JEALOUS MONSTER. I WAS ALLOWED TO GO NOWHERE, SEE NO ONE, SPEAK TO NO ONE! ROBERT EVEN ORDERED MY CLOTHES! SEDATE ILL-FITTING THINGS THAT MADE ME LOOK YEARS OLDER!!

HOW UGLY! HIS TASTE RUNS INTO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY WHEN WOMEN'S ARMS AND LEGS WERE UNMENTIONABLE!!

INCIDENT AFTER INCIDENT OCCURRED SHOWING ROBERT'S FANATIC JEALOUSY---

AND WHAT DOES MADAM WISH I WOULD SUGGEST--

YOU WILL SUGGEST NOTHING! I'LL ORDER THE ENTIRE MEAL! GO TELL THE MANAGER I WANT ANOTHER WAITER!

ROBERT, HE ONLY MEANT TO BE HELPFUL! THAT IS HIS JOB!!

MY NIGHTS WERE SLEEPLESS AND I BEGAN TO GROW MORE NERVOUS ABOUT SEEING PEOPLE----

YOUR AUNT KATE PHONED, JANET! SHE WANTS US OVER FOR THE WEEK END!

I CAN'T GO! I COULDN'T FACE HER! THERE'LL BE TOO MANY QUESTIONS! TELL HER I'M NOT FEELING WELL!!

ONE DAY AT HOME, I WAS AT MY WIT'S END AS TO WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF! THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR---!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

DON'T BITE MY HEAD OFF, LADY! I'M ONLY TRYING TO SELL SOMETHING TO MAKE A LIVING!

I'M SORRY, COME IN!

I'M A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIVERSAL ENCYCLOPEDIA. WE ARE TRYING TO ACQUAINT PEOPLE WITH OUR BOOKS THROUGH A SPECIAL OFFER!

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, I HAD A PLEASANT CONVERSATION WITH ANYONE. I WASN'T EVEN INTERESTED IN WHAT HE WAS SELLING. I JUST WANTED TO HEAR SOMEONE SPEAK NICELY TO ME--

NOW IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, I'LL LEAVE THE FIRST BOOK OF THE SET AND I'LL CALL AGAIN IN A WEEK!

THAT'LL BE FINE! I'LL SPEAK TO MY HUSBAND ABOUT IT!

NOT TWO MINUTES AFTER HE LEFT, ROBERT CAME BURSTING INTO THE HOUSE---

WHO WAS THAT MAN? ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT? WHAT WAS HE DOING? MAKING LOVE TO YOU?

ARE YOU MAD, ROBERT? HE WAS A SALESMAN! IF I HAD ANY FRIENDS, THEY'VE BEEN DRIVEN AWAY BY YOU!!

MAD, HUH? I'VE HAD YOU WATCHED! I DON'T BELIEVE YOUR LITTLE STORY! WE'RE GOING AWAY TOMORROW- AWAY FROM VISITING SALESMEN!

I HATE YOU, ROBERT! I HATE YOU!!! YOU HAVE KILLED EVERYTHING IN ME THAT WAS A WOMAN! LEAVE ME! GO AWAY! I HATE YOU!!

MY SECRET LIFE

I WAS HYSTERICAL ALL EVENING. I HATED AND FEARED HIM FOR WHAT HE WAS DOING TO ME! I SHRANK FROM HIS APPROACH! I THOUGHT OF LEAVING HIM BUT I COULDN'T--!

FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A FEW DAYS' VACATION TO TONE YOU UP A BIT! THEN WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AROUND FOR A LITTLE HOUSE!

I DON'T CARE! YOU DO WHAT YOU PLEASE, ANYHOW!

IT WAS AN IDEAL SPOT FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE IN LOVE, BUT I WAS AN EMPTY SHELL, SO IT MEANT NOTHING----

ARE YOU SURE THE ROOM IS COMPLETELY PRIVATE? WE NEED A REST! ALSO, I'D LIKE A PRIVATE TABLE FOR DINING!!

YES, SIR, IT'S THE ONLY ROOM OFF THE HALL! IT'S COMPLETELY PRIVATE!

A REST? HE WANTS TO HIDE ME FROM THE WORLD!

THE NEXT MORNING, ROBERT TOOK ME FOR A WALK TO SEE THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY--

IT'S BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY AND THE AIR IS EXHILARATING!! DO YOU LIKE IT, JANET?

I'D LIKE TO GET BACK! IT'S TOO QUIET AND LONELY HERE! IT GETS ON MY NERVES!

JUST AT THE TOP OF THE HILL, THE MAN WAS TAKING CANDID PICTURES. HE SWUNG HIS CAMERA AROUND TOWARDS ME---

AH, THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL SHOT! HOLD IT PLEASE, MA'AM!! SMILE! THAT'S A LOVELY POSE!

STOP THAT! STOP THAT! I SAY! I'LL BREAK THAT CAMERA!

DON'T RUN, ROBERT!! THE ROCKS ARE LOOSE! IT'S DANGEROUS!!

ROBERT RAN UP THE STEEP CLIFF AS ONE POSSESSED-

GIVE ME THAT CAMERA, YOU SNOOP! GIVE ME THAT--- AAAEEEE!

WATCH OUT! WATCH OUT--- --- HE'S FALLING!

OOOOHHH! NO! NO!

I SAW HIS BODY GO DOWN! THEN I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS. I WOKE IN MY ROOM---

WHERE AM I? OH! HOW IS ROBERT? WHERE IS HE?

BE CALM, MRS. KENDRICKS! YOUR HUSBAND IS IN THE TOWN HOSPITAL IN A VERY SERIOUS CONDITION! VERY SERIOUS!

AT THE HOSPITAL, ROBERT WAS DELIRIOUS-

ROBERT! ROBERT! IT'S JANET-SPEAK TO ME!

ALL WOMEN-- NO GOOD--CAN'T--- TRUST A SINGLE--ONE--MOTHER--NOT EVEN MOTHER--FALSE--DEVILS--CHEATS---NO GOOD!

CAN I DO ANYTHING AT ALL!

NO, HE'S DELIRIOUS! HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT FOR SIX HOURS! GO HOME AND REST! HE'S VERY BAD! I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS!

MY SECRET LIFE

THE NEXT MORNING ROBERT PASSED AWAY. I WAS A WIDOW, BUT SOMEHOW, I WASN'T SORRY!! IT WAS HARD TO SHOW GRIEF FOR SOMEONE YOU DID NOT REALLY LOVE! I WAS FREE, BUT I FELT GUILTY ABOUT MY NEW-FOUND FREEDOM-

I'M REALLY SORRY MA'AM! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING!! YOUR HUSBAND'S BODY WILL BE SHIPPED TO NEW YORK TOMORROW!
THANK YOU! I'LL LEAVE TONIGHT AND TAKE THE PLANE FROM BUTTE!

I WENT BACK TO AUNT KATE'S HOME!! I COULDN'T STAND LIVING IN ROBERT'S HOUSE! IT FELT AS IF HE WAS TRYING, EVEN NOW, TO LOCK ME IN! I FEARED EVERYTHING THAT REMINDED ME OF HIM---

HOW COULD I TELL HER AND DESTROY HER ILLUSIONS? I KEPT QUIET. I DIDN'T WANT HER OR ANYONE ELSE TO KNOW HOW RELIEVED I FELT---

THE FUNERAL WAS A TERRIBLE ORDEAL! ALL HIS RELATIVES WERE THERE FEELING SORRY FOR ME!! I COULD HARDLY FACE THEM---

ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST---
HOW I WISH THIS WAS OVER! I'M ASHAMED OF MYSELF, BUT I JUST CAN'T STAND IT!
POOR JANET! WHAT A BLOW!
SUCH A TERRIBLE LOSS!

AS I WAS TURNING TO LEAVE WITH KATE, A YOUNG MAN APPROACHED ME---

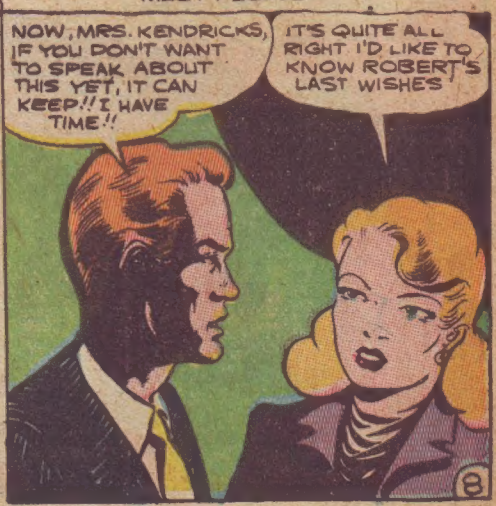
PARDON ME, MRS. KENDRICK! I'M GORDON GRANT, ROBERT'S LAW ASSOCIATE!! MAY I SPEAK TO YOU SOON ABOUT HIS WILL?
YES, YES, BUT NOT NOW, PLEASE!

I WENT HOME TO WEAVE TOGETHER THE THREADS OF A NEW LIFE!!! MY NEW-FOUND FREEDOM FELT GOOD YET MY GUILT ABOUT NOT FEELING SORRY TROUBLED ME. I TRIED TO FIND EXCUSES. I HONESTLY TRIED TO FEEL SORRY, BUT I COULDN'T! THERE HAD BEEN SO FEW MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS WITH ROBERT---

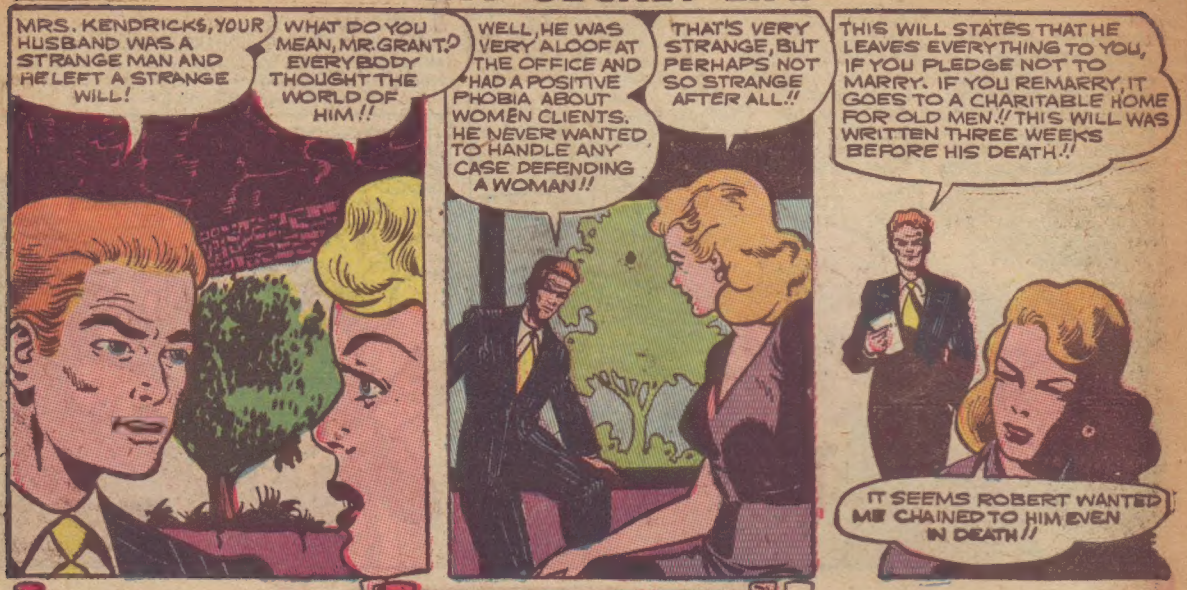
I SHUT MYSELF AWAY FROM PEOPLE ENTIRELY--- I WAS AFRAID TO FACE THEM FOR MANY MONTHS. KATE WAS WONDERFUL TO ME---

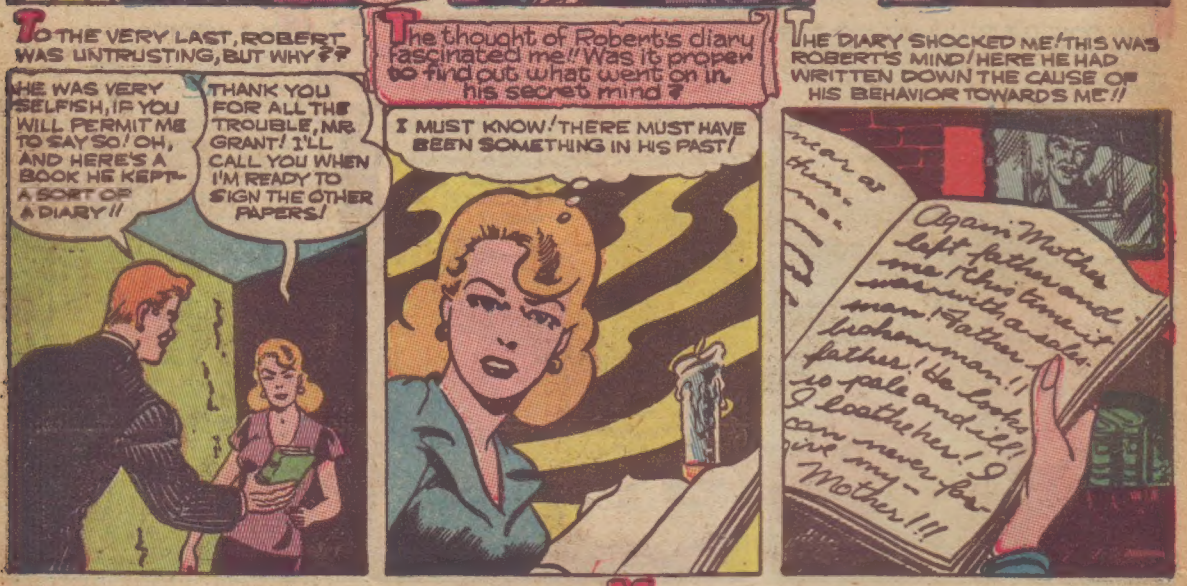
IT'S NO USE BROODING! YOU'RE YOUNG AND HAVE YOUR LIFE TO LIVE. YOU SHOULD GET OUT AND MEET PEOPLE!! DON'T BURY YOURSELF, DEAR!!
I KNOW AUNT KATE! I WON'T BURY MYSELF!
THAT'S WHAT ROBERT WANTED ME TO DO! I WON'T DO IT!!

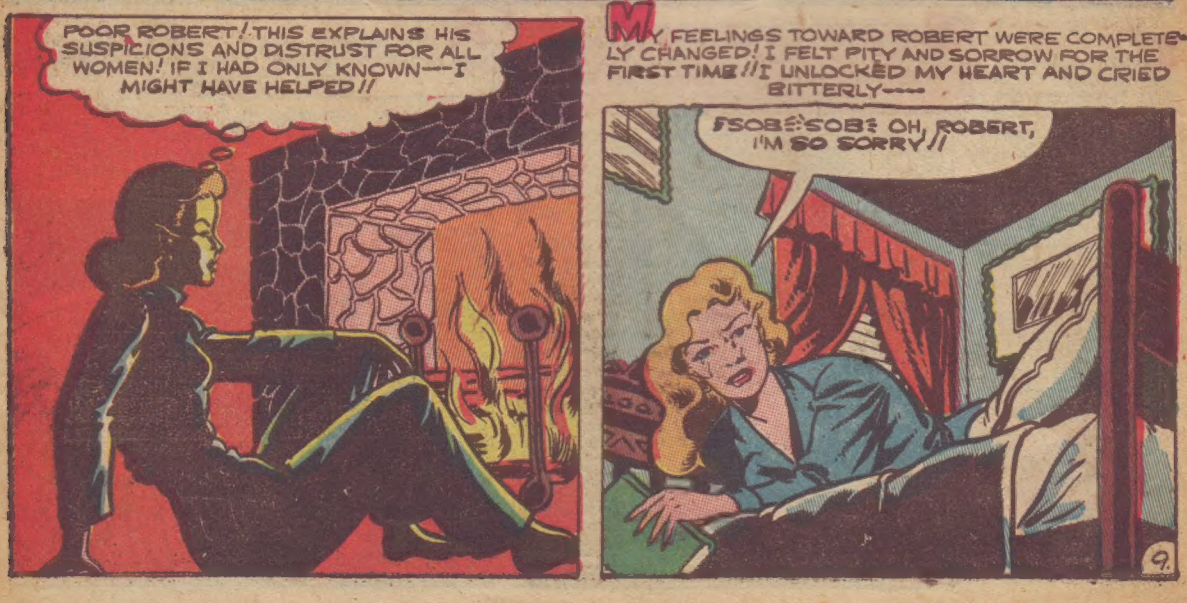
A FEW WEEKS LATER, I HAD A VISITOR--- MR. GORDON GRANT. I WAS NOW EAGER TO MEET PEOPLE---


NOW, MRS. KENDRICKS, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEAK ABOUT THIS YET, IT CAN KEEP!! I HAVE TIME!!
IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT! I'D LIKE TO KNOW ROBERT'S LAST WISHES

MY SECRET LIFE


MRS. KENDRICKS, YOUR HUSBAND WAS A STRANGE MAN AND HE LEFT A STRANGE WILL!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MR. GRANT? EVERYBODY THOUGHT THE WORLD OF HIM!!
WELL, HE WAS VERY ALOOF AT THE OFFICE AND HAD A POSITIVE PHOBIA ABOUT WOMEN CLIENTS. HE NEVER WANTED TO HANDLE ANY CASE DEFENDING A WOMAN!!
THAT'S VERY STRANGE, BUT PERHAPS NOT SO STRANGE AFTER ALL!!
THIS WILL STATES THAT HE LEAVES EVERYTHING TO YOU, IF YOU PLEDGE NOT TO MARRY. IF YOU REMARRY, IT GOES TO A CHARITABLE HOME FOR OLD MEN!! THIS WILL WAS WRITTEN THREE WEEKS BEFORE HIS DEATH!!
IT SEEMS ROBERT WANTED ME CHAINED TO HIM EVEN IN DEATH!!


TO THE VERY LAST, ROBERT WAS UNTRUSTING, BUT WHY??
HE WAS VERY SELFISH, IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME TO SAY SO! OH, AND HERE'S A BOOK HE KEPT— A SORT OF A DIARY!!
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE TROUBLE, MR. GRANT! I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I'M READY TO SIGN THE OTHER PAPERS!
The thought of Robert's diary fascinated me! Was it proper to find out what went on in his secret mind?
I MUST KNOW! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING IN HIS PAST!
THE DIARY SHOCKED ME! THIS WAS ROBERT'S MIND! HERE HE HAD WRITTEN DOWN THE CAUSE OF HIS BEHAVIOR TOWARDS ME!!
Again Mother left father and me. This time it was with a sales-man! Father—barbaroman!! Father! He looks so pale and ill! I loathe him! I can never for-give my— Mother!!!


POOR ROBERT! THIS EXPLAINS HIS SUSPICIONS AND DISTRUST FOR ALL WOMEN! IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN—I MIGHT HAVE HELPED!!
MY FEELINGS TOWARD ROBERT WERE COMPLETELY CHANGED! I FELT PITY AND SORROW FOR THE FIRST TIME!! I UNLOCKED MY HEART AND CRIED BITTERLY—
SOB! SOB! OH, ROBERT, I'M SO SORRY!!
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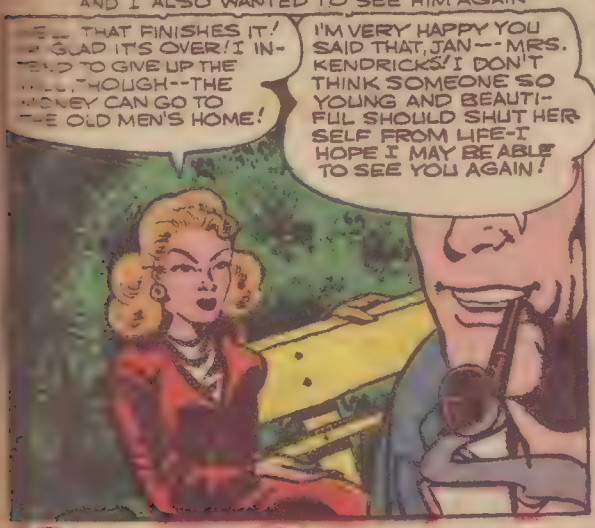
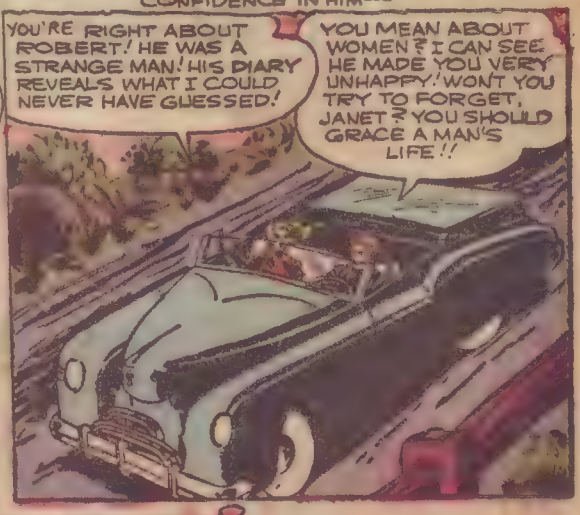
MY SECRET LIFE

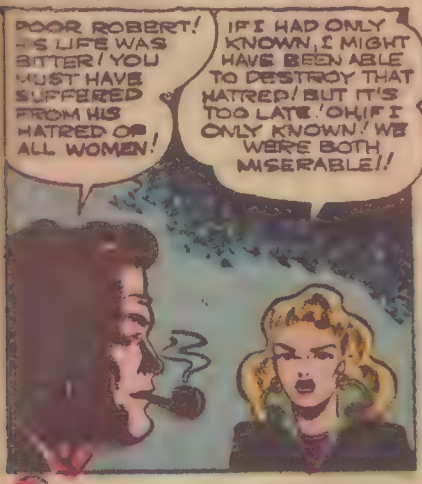
I CALLED GORDON GRANT TO SIGN THE PAPERS AND I ALSO WANTED TO SEE HIM AGAIN--


THAT FINISHES IT! I'M GLAD IT'S OVER! I INTEND TO GIVE UP THE MILL, THOUGH--THE MONEY CAN GO TO THE OLD MEN'S HOME!
I'M VERY HAPPY YOU SAID THAT, JAN--MRS. KENDRICKS! I DON'T THINK SOMEONE SO YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL SHOULD SHUT HERSELF FROM LIFE-I HOPE I MAY BE ABLE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

FOR THE FIRST TIME I SAW GORDON AS A MAN, AND I DESIRED HIS COMPANY. I FOUND I HAD CONFIDENCE IN HIM---


YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ROBERT! HE WAS A STRANGE MAN! HIS DIARY REVEALS WHAT I COULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED!
YOU MEAN ABOUT WOMEN? I CAN SEE HE MADE YOU VERY UNHAPPY! WON'T YOU TRY TO FORGET, JANET? YOU SHOULD GRACE A MAN'S LIFE!!

HE BECAME MORE FRIENDLY AND I DECIDED TO SHOW GORDON THE DIARY. HE READ IT AND HIS FACE SHOWED GENUINE PITY--!

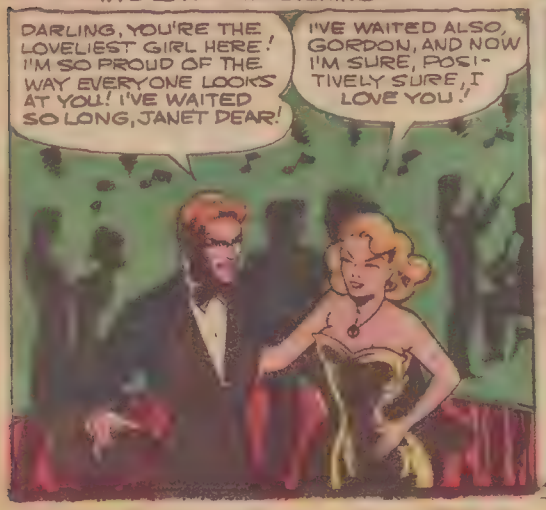

POOR ROBERT! HIS LIFE WAS BITTER! YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED FROM HIS HATRED OF ALL WOMEN!
IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DESTROY THAT HATRED! BUT IT'S TOO LATE! OH, IF I ONLY KNOWN! WE WERE BOTH MISERABLE!!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO LIVE, JANET! LET'S GET RID OF IT! I WANT TO MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR YOU AND GIVE YOU THE HAPPINESS YOU DESERVE!
OH, GORDON, THANK YOU! BUT I'M NOT READY YET. I'M NOT SURE I CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY AFTER THIS!

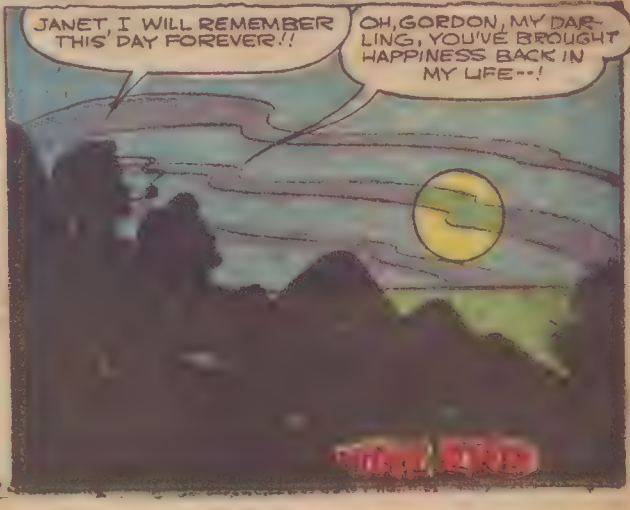
I SPOKE TO AUNT KATE ABOUT GORDON'S PROPOSAL---

I THINK GORDON WANTS TO MARRY ME, BUT I'M NOT SURE OF MYSELF YET! I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I LOVE HIM!
I'VE SEEN THIS COMING FOR SOMETIME!! GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE, JANET DEAR. GORDON WILL WAIT IF HE REALLY WANTS YOU!!

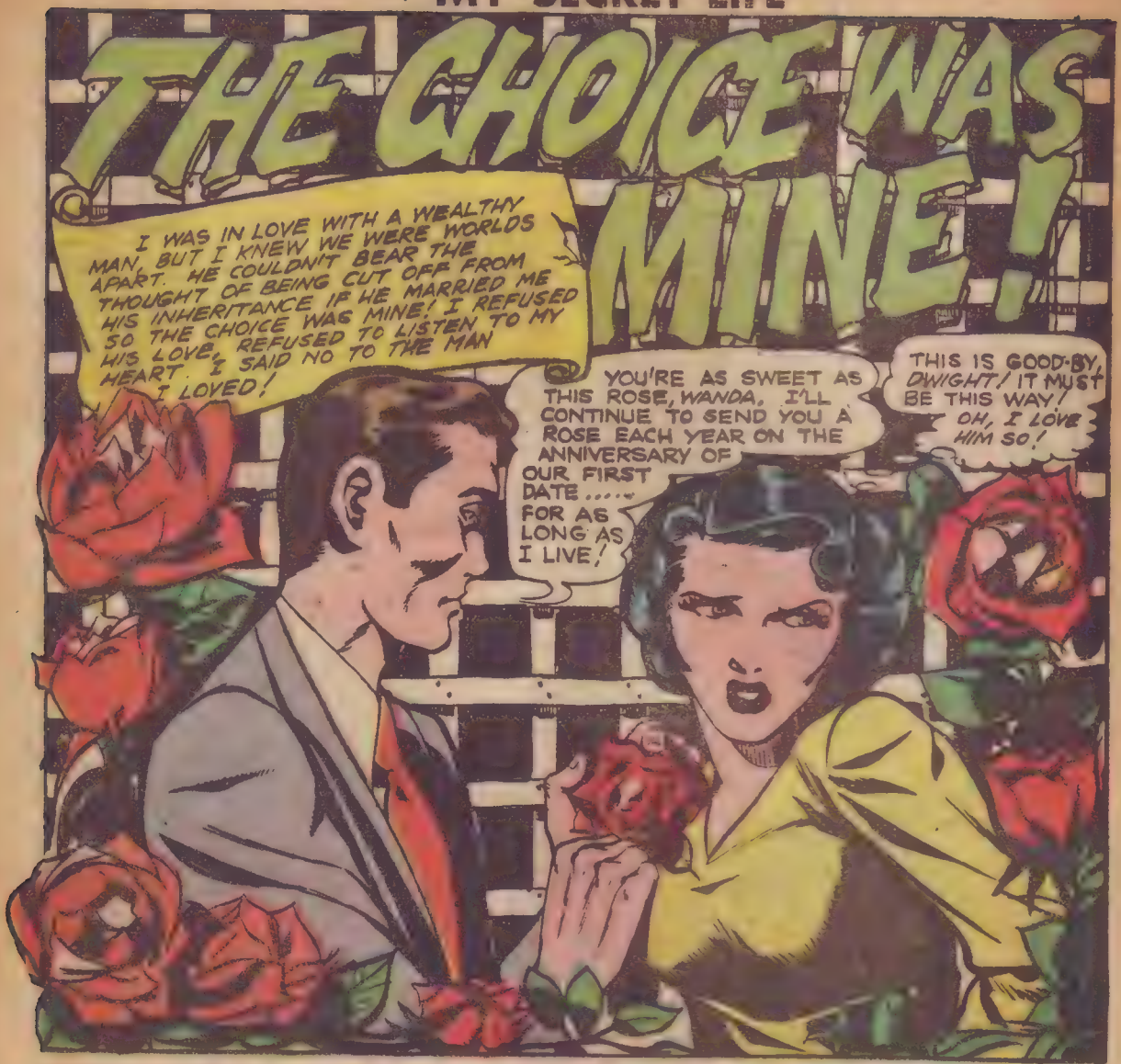
GORDON GRANT DID WAIT FOR ME AND GRADUALLY, FROM ADMIRATION AND RESPECT, MY FEELING TOWARD HIM GREW INTO LOVE! ONE EVENING--

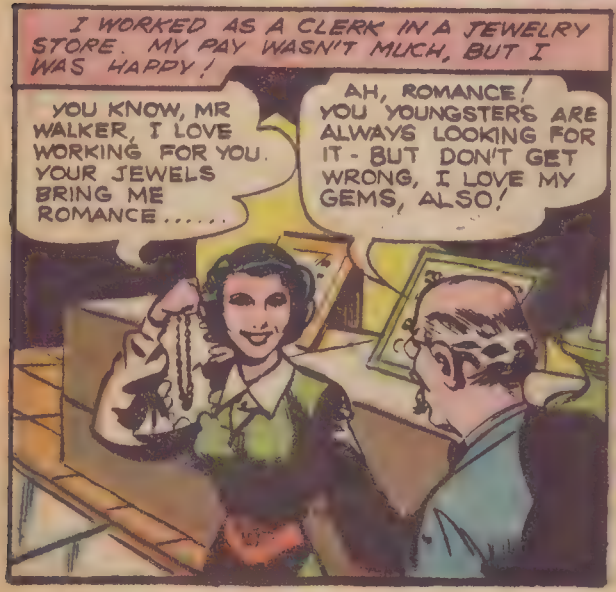

DARLING, YOU'RE THE LOVELIEST GIRL HERE! I'M SO PROUD OF THE WAY EVERYONE LOOKS AT YOU! I'VE WAITED SO LONG, JANET DEAR!
I'VE WAITED ALSO, GORDON, AND NOW I'M SURE, POSITIVELY SURE, I LOVE YOU!

THAT NIGHT WE CELEBRATED OUR ENGAGEMENT----! GONE WERE THE FEARS, THE HATREDS, AND SUSPICIONS--! A NEW LIFE HAD OPENED UP FOR ME IN GORDON'S ARMS. ONCE AGAIN I FELT I WAS A WOMAN!



THE CHOICE WAS MINE!


I WAS IN LOVE WITH A WEALTHY MAN, BUT I KNEW WE WERE WORLDS APART. HE COULDN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF BEING CUT OFF FROM HIS INHERITANCE IF HE MARRIED ME SO THE CHOICE WAS MINE! I REFUSED HIS LOVE, REFUSED TO LISTEN TO MY HEART. I SAID NO TO THE MAN I LOVED!
YOU'RE AS SWEET AS THIS ROSE, WANDA, I'LL CONTINUE TO SEND YOU A ROSE EACH YEAR ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FIRST DATE..... FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE!
THIS IS GOOD-BY, DWIGHT! IT MUST BE THIS WAY! OH, I LOVE HIM SO!

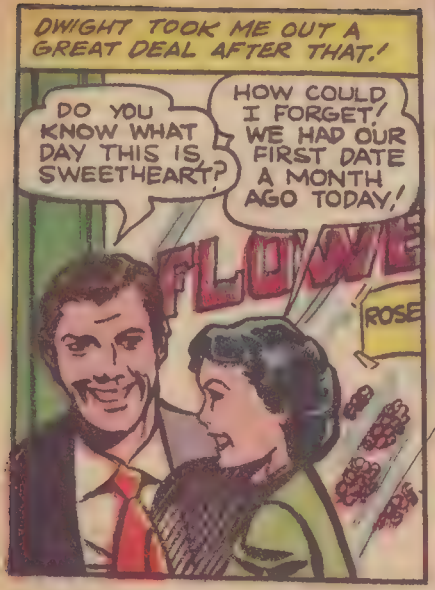

I WORKED AS A CLERK IN A JEWELRY STORE. MY PAY WASN'T MUCH, BUT I WAS HAPPY!
YOU KNOW, MR WALKER, I LOVE WORKING FOR YOU. YOUR JEWELS BRING ME ROMANCE.....
AH, ROMANCE! YOU YOUNGSTERS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR IT - BUT DON'T GET WRONG, I LOVE MY GEMS, ALSO!

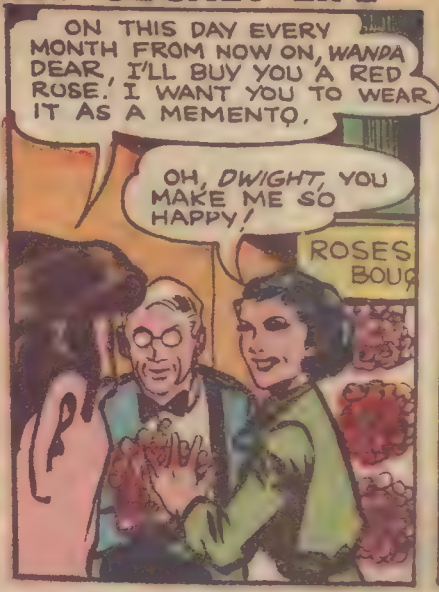
ONE OF OUR BEST CUSTOMERS WAS WEALTHY DWIGHT ALMSLEY. HE WAS YOUNG AND HANDSOME, AND MY HEART TURNED OVER EVERY TIME HE CAME IN!
MR. ALMSLEY, I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER WILL BE PROUD WHEN YOU SHOW HER THE NECKLACE YOU BOUGHT FOR HER BIRTHDAY!
I AGREE WITH YOU, MISS CARTWRIGHT.

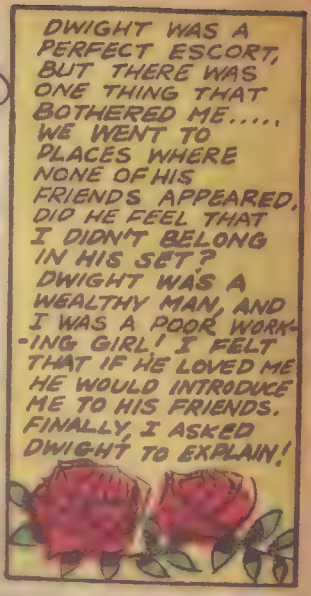
MY SECRET LIFE

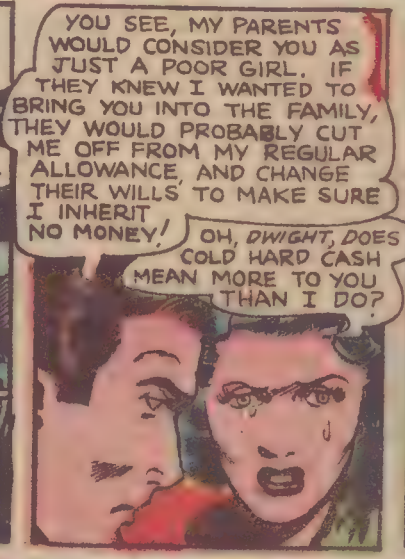
WHEN DWIGHT ALMSLEY CAME INTO THE JEWELRY SHOP WHERE I WORKED, I FELT AN EXCITEMENT I HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED.....
THIS NECKLACE WAS ONCE OWNED BY THE MAHARAJA OF KUJI, MR. ALMSLEY.
I KNOW THAT STORY, MISS CARTWRIGHT, WHEN THAT WIFE DIED, HE SOLD THE NECKLACE, HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE IN HIS HAREM TO WEAR IT!
MISS CARTWRIGHT, I HAVE COME TO RELY UPON YOU WHEN SHOPPING FOR EXCELLENT GEMS. HOW ABOUT TALKING IT OVER AT DINNER?
WHY, MR. ALMSLEY, I'D BE DELIGHTED! I'LL SEE YOU AT SIX.
I WAS THRILLED TO HAVE A DATE WITH DWIGHT.....
YOU KNOW, WANDA, I ASKED YOU OUT TO TALK THINGS OVER BUT NOW I FIND YOU A CHARMING COMPANION!
I'M GLAD, DWIGHT, AND I'M HAVING FUN!
YOU'RE A WONDERFUL DANCER, WANDA.
YOU ARE TOO, DWIGHT! OH, I HOPE THIS EVENING NEVER ENDS.
WANDA, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME. I'M BEWITCHED BY YOU."
PERHAPS THE MOON IS WEAVING A SPELL OVER US, DWIGHT.
SUDDENLY, THAT MOON-SPELL BROKE SAVAGELY INTO FLAME. WE WERE SWEPT BY THE CURRENT OF ITS MAGNET!
WANDA, I LOVE YOU! I NEVER DREAMED ANYTHING COULD HIT ME SO QUICKLY.
OH, DWIGHT, I LOVE YOU! WILL I WAKE UP TOMORROW TO FIND THIS IS JUST A DREAM!
2

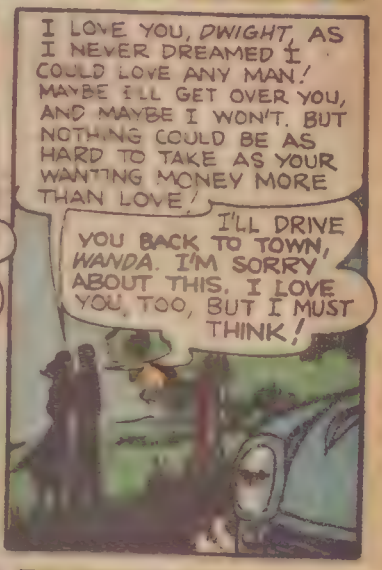
MY SECRET LIFE

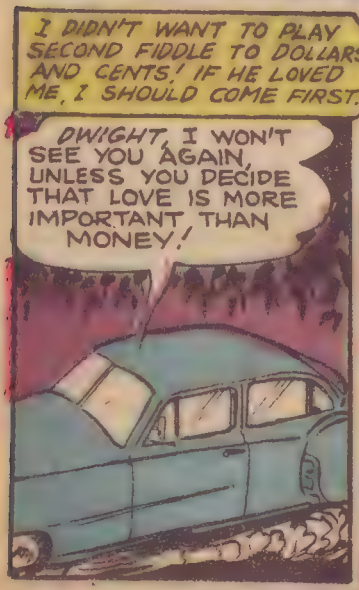

DWIGHT TOOK ME OUT A GREAT DEAL AFTER THAT.!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY THIS IS, SWEETHEART?
HOW COULD I FORGET! WE HAD OUR FIRST DATE A MONTH AGO TODAY!
FLOWE
ROSE

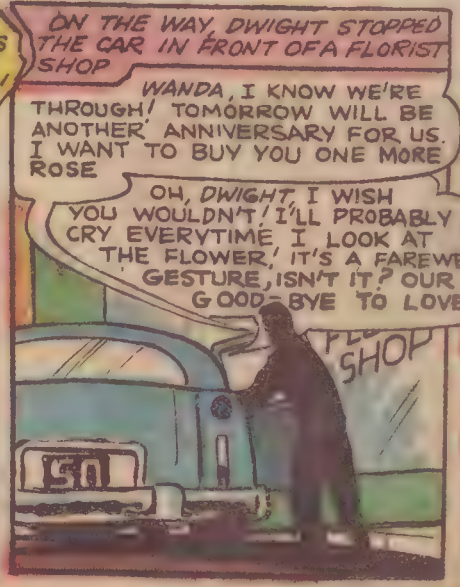

ON THIS DAY EVERY MONTH FROM NOW ON, WANDA DEAR, I'LL BUY YOU A RED ROSE. I WANT YOU TO WEAR IT AS A MEMENTO.
OH, DWIGHT, YOU MAKE ME SO HAPPY!
ROSES

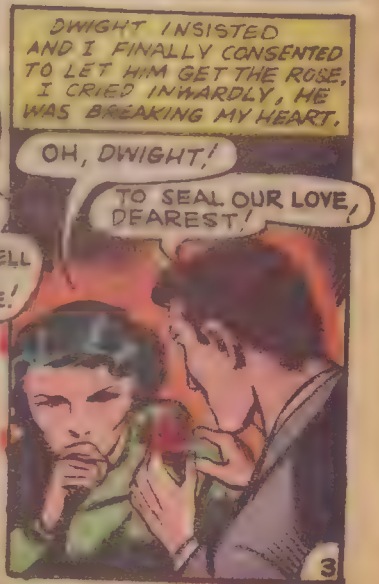

DWIGHT WAS A PERFECT ESCORT, BUT THERE WAS ONE THING THAT BOTHERED ME..... WE WENT TO PLACES WHERE NONE OF HIS FRIENDS APPEARED. DID HE FEEL THAT I DIDN'T BELONG IN HIS SET? DWIGHT WAS A WEALTHY MAN, AND I WAS A POOR WORK-ING GIRL! I FELT THAT IF HE LOVED ME HE WOULD INTRODUCE ME TO HIS FRIENDS. FINALLY, I ASKED DWIGHT TO EXPLAIN!


YOU SEE, MY PARENTS WOULD CONSIDER YOU AS JUST A POOR GIRL. IF THEY KNEW I WANTED TO BRING YOU INTO THE FAMILY, THEY WOULD PROBABLY CUT ME OFF FROM MY REGULAR ALLOWANCE, AND CHANGE THEIR WILLS TO MAKE SURE I INHERIT NO MONEY!
OH, DWIGHT, DOES COLD HARD CASH MEAN MORE TO YOU THAN I DO?


I LOVE YOU, DWIGHT, AS I NEVER DREAMED I COULD LOVE ANY MAN! MAYBE I'LL GET OVER YOU, AND MAYBE I WON'T. BUT NOTHING COULD BE AS HARD TO TAKE AS YOUR WANTING MONEY MORE THAN LOVE!
I'LL DRIVE YOU BACK TO TOWN, WANDA. I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS. I LOVE YOU, TOO, BUT I MUST THINK!


I DIDN'T WANT TO PLAY SECOND FIDDLE TO DOLLARS AND CENTS! IF HE LOVED ME, I SHOULD COME FIRST!
DWIGHT, I WON'T SEE YOU AGAIN, UNLESS YOU DECIDE THAT LOVE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY!


ON THE WAY, DWIGHT STOPPED THE CAR IN FRONT OF A FLORIST SHOP
WANDA, I KNOW WE'RE THROUGH! TOMORROW WILL BE ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY FOR US. I WANT TO BUY YOU ONE MORE ROSE
OH, DWIGHT, I WISH YOU WOULDN'T! I'LL PROBABLY CRY EVERYTIME I LOOK AT THE FLOWER! IT'S A FAREWELL GESTURE, ISN'T IT? OUR GOOD-BYE TO LOVE!
SHOP


DWIGHT INSISTED AND I FINALLY CONSENTED TO LET HIM GET THE ROSE. I CRIED INWARDLY, HE WAS BREAKING MY HEART.
OH, DWIGHT!
TO SEAL OUR LOVE, DEAREST!

MY SECRET LIFE

THE DAYS AND WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED WERE SHEER TORTURE TO ME. EACH TIME THE SHOP DOOR OPENED, I LOOKED UP QUICKLY TO SEE IF THE CUSTOMER WERE DWIGHT.

OHHH! GOOD MORNING, MAY I HELP YOU?

I WAS LONELY WITHOUT DWIGHT, PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENINGS.

DWIGHT, DWIGHT, DARLING, WHY MUST YOUR MONEY COME BETWEEN US? WHY CAN'T YOU LOVE ME ENOUGH TO GIVE UP YOUR FORTUNE? WORKING FOR A LIVING IS NO CRIME. IT MIGHT DO YOU GOOD. I LOVE YOU, AND MISS YOU SO! SOB.

I LOVE YOU

AT LONG LAST DWIGHT CAME TO SEE ME. MY JOY AT THE SIGHT OF HIM OVERWHELMED ME.

WANDA, DARLING, I'VE THOUGHT THINGS OUT CAREFULLY, I FIND MY HEART RULES MY HEAD. I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD. I'VE COME BACK TO ASK YOU TO MARRY ME, DESPITE THE PROBABLE OBJECTION OF MY FOLKS.

DWIGHT, OH DWIGHT DEAREST! . . . . I'VE MISSED YOU DREADFULLY! YES, MY SWEET, WONDERFUL DARLING, I'LL MARRY YOU!

HIS KISS WAS A PROMISE OF LOVE AND HAPPINESS. NOW THERE WOULD BE TWELVE ROSES A YEAR . . . AND DWIGHT FOREVER. THIS WAS LOVE IN ALL ITS SPLENDER!

TOMORROW WE'LL PICK OUT AN ENGAGEMENT RING! IT'LL BE THE BIGGEST, BEST, AND MOST EXPENSIVE IN YOUR SHOP!

DWIGHT, DARLING, I APPRECIATE THAT, BUT YOU KNOW, I'D BE HAPPY WITH A LITTLE RING THAT DIDN'T COST MUCH! IT'S THE SENTIMENT, NOT THE PRICE, THAT COUNTS!

ERY

P

RING

GOLD

THE NEXT DAY, DWIGHT CAME INTO THE JEWELRY SHOP!

I'VE COME TO BUY AN ENGAGEMENT RING FOR YOUR BEAUTIFUL ASSISTANT, MR. WALKER! I DON'T KNOW IF SHE TOLD YOU OR NOT, BUT WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED!

WANDA, YOU'LL HAVE TO ACT AS A CUSTOMER ON AN OCCASION LIKE THIS. I WOULDN'T DREAM OF LETTING YOU SELL YOUR OWN ENGAGEMENT RING.

THAT'S THE ONE I WANT TO GIVE HER, MR. WALKER. DO YOU LIKE IT, ANGEL?

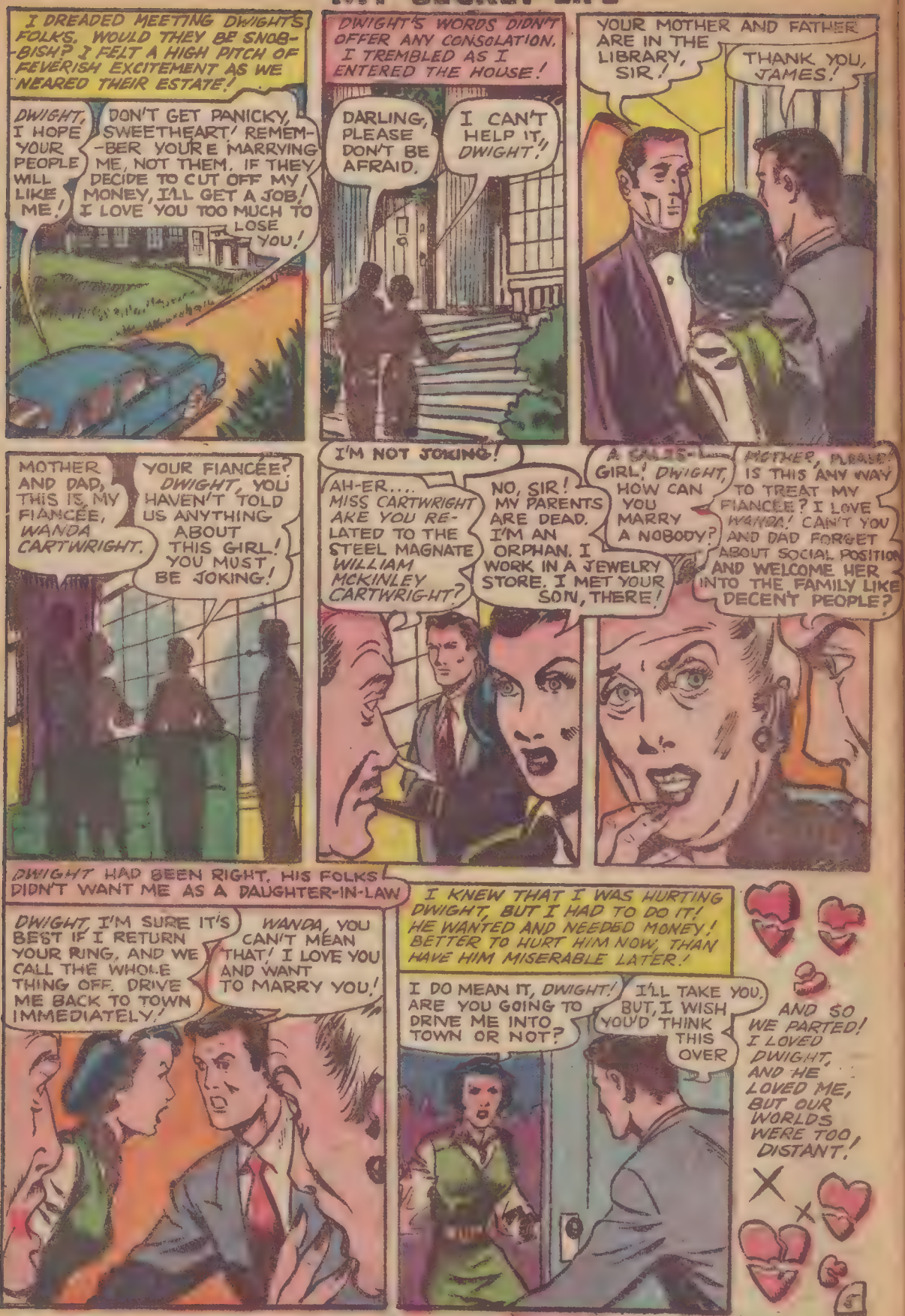
LIKE IT? OH, DWIGHT, DEAREST, IT'S SIMPLY GORGEOUS!

I'LL LOVE THIS RING ALWAYS, DWIGHT.

AND I'LL CHERISH YOU FOREVER, MY DEAR. I CAN HARDLY WAIT UNTIL I GET A WEDDING BAND ON YOUR FINGER.

I LOVE YOU, WANDA!

MY SECRET LIFE


I DREADED MEETING DWIGHT'S FOLKS. WOULD THEY BE SNOBBISH? I FELT A HIGH PITCH OF FEVERISH EXCITEMENT AS WE NEARED THEIR ESTATE!
DWIGHT, I HOPE YOUR PEOPLE WILL LIKE ME!
DON'T GET PANICKY, SWEETHEART! REMEMBER YOU'RE MARRYING ME, NOT THEM. IF THEY DECIDE TO CUT OFF MY MONEY, I'LL GET A JOB! I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO LOSE YOU!
DWIGHT'S WORDS DIDN'T OFFER ANY CONSOLATION. I TREMBLED AS I ENTERED THE HOUSE!
DARLING, PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID.
I CAN'T HELP IT, DWIGHT.
YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER ARE IN THE LIBRARY, SIR.
THANK YOU, JAMES!
MOTHER AND DAD, THIS IS MY FIANCÉE, WANDA CARTWRIGHT.
YOUR FIANCÉE? DWIGHT, YOU HAVEN'T TOLD US ANYTHING ABOUT THIS GIRL! YOU MUST BE JOKING!
I'M NOT JOKING!
AH-ER.... MISS CARTWRIGHT AKE YOU RELATED TO THE STEEL MAGNATE WILLIAM MCKINLEY CARTWRIGHT?
NO, SIR! MY PARENTS ARE DEAD. I'M AN ORPHAN. I WORK IN A JEWELRY STORE. I MET YOUR SON, THERE!
A SALES-GIRL! DWIGHT, HOW CAN YOU MARRY A NOBODY?
MOTHER, PLEASE! IS THIS ANY WAY TO TREAT MY FIANCÉE? I LOVE WANDA! CAN'T YOU AND DAD FORGET ABOUT SOCIAL POSITION AND WELCOME HER INTO THE FAMILY LIKE DECENT PEOPLE?
DWIGHT HAD BEEN RIGHT. HIS FOLKS DIDN'T WANT ME AS A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
DWIGHT, I'M SURE IT'S BEST IF I RETURN YOUR RING, AND WE CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF. DRIVE ME BACK TO TOWN IMMEDIATELY.
WANDA, YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT! I LOVE YOU AND WANT TO MARRY YOU!
I KNEW THAT I WAS HURTING DWIGHT, BUT I HAD TO DO IT! HE WANTED AND NEEDED MONEY! BETTER TO HURT HIM NOW, THAN HAVE HIM MISERABLE LATER!
I DO MEAN IT, DWIGHT! ARE YOU GOING TO DRIVE ME INTO TOWN OR NOT?
I'LL TAKE YOU. BUT, I WISH YOU'D THINK THIS OVER
AND SO WE PARTED! I LOVED DWIGHT, AND HE LOVED ME, BUT OUR WORLDS WERE TOO DISTANT!

MY SECRET LIFE

I FELT DESOLATE AND SICK AT HEART. I HAD WALKED OUT ON THE MAN I LOVED, KNOWING THAT I WAS HURTING HIM; BUT I WAS AFRAID TO FACE LIFE WHEN THERE WAS SO MUCH AGAINST US.

OH, DARLING, I CAN'T BEAR THIS ANY MORE. I CAN'T STAY IN THE SAME TOWN WITH YOU. I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!

MR. WALKER, I'VE COME TO ASK FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE STORE. DWIGHT AND I ARE NO LONGER ENGAGED! I'M VERY UPSET, AND WANT A CHANGE OF SCENERY. I'D LIKE TO LEAVE TOWN FOR AWHILE.

I'M SORRY, MY DEAR. OF COURSE I'LL GIVE YOU A LEAVE OF ABSENCE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO WITHOUT YOU, BUT I UNDERSTAND. YOUR JOB WILL BE OPEN IF YOU CARE TO RETURN!

I MOVED TO ANOTHER TOWN, FOUND A ROOM, AND TOOK A JOB AS A WAITRESS.

YOU'RE NEW HERE, AREN'T YOU?

YES---WILL YOU HAVE ANYTHING BESIDES COFFEE, SIR?

THE MAN I WAS SERVING WAS BILL FENTON. HE WAS A FLOORWALKER IN A DEPARTMENT STORE, AND A VERY NICE GUY....

WELL, WANDA, YOU'VE FINALLY ACCEPTED A DATE WITH ME! I TRIED FOR THREE WEEKS, BUT MY EFFORTS HAVE BEEN REWARDED, AND I'M HAPPY!

I ENJOY BEING WITH YOU, BILL! I--I'VE BEEN LONELY!

NCHEONE

MY HEART WAS CRYING FOR DWIGHT! IT SEEMED STRANGE TO BE GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

WANDA, I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU LOVE SOMEONE ELSE. IS THAT WHAT MAKES YOU SAD? DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?

NO, BILL! DWIGHT'S OUT OF SIGHT, AND I WANT TO PUT HIM OUT OF HEART AND MIND. LET'S ENJOY OURSELVES, AND FORGET THE PAST!

SOME WEEKS LATER....

ANYTHING YOU SAY, WANDA. I LIKE YOU SO MUCH THAT I'M GOING TO TRY TO BEAT HIS TIME. I HOPE I CAN MAKE YOU LIKE ME PERHAPS EVEN LOVE ME SOMEDAY.

YOU'RE VERY SWEET, BILL.

WANDA, DEAR, I KNOW THAT YOU STILL LOVE DWIGHT! BUT I THINK THAT IN TIME THE PAIN OF THAT OLD LOVE WILL WEAR OFF, AND YOU'LL COME TO FEEL SOMETHING DEEP FOR ME.. WILL YOU MARRY ME?

BILL, I LIKE YOU A GREAT DEAL, ENOUGH TO MARRY YOU AND TRY MY BEST TO MAKE YOU HAPPY!

BILL'S KISS WAS NOT SO EXCITING AND FULL OF FIRE AS DWIGHT'S, BUT IT WAS GENTLE AND SINCERE....

MY SECRET LIFE

MY FORMER EMPLOYER, MR. WALKER, HAD ALWAYS BEEN LIKE A FATHER TO ME. I HAD TO TELL HIM OF MY NEW ENGAGE-MENT.

Dear Mr. Walker, That's how it is. Bill wants me, even though he knows how I feel. I hope Dwight will find happiness with someone who travels in his own circle. Thanks for everything you've effected at the wilds. I'll let you know the date as soon as I possibly can.

With warmest Regards, Wanda

EVERYTHING WENT WELL WITH BILL AND ME UNTIL THE DAY CAME WHEN IT WAS CUSTOM-ARY FOR ME TO WEAR A RED ROSE! I FOUND I COULDN'T RESIST ENTERING A LITTLE FLOWER SHOP.

SOB. WHY MUST I TORTURE MYSELF LIKE THIS? WHY MUST I LOVE DWIGHT SO MUCH? I PROMISED TO MARRY BILL-I MUSTN'T ACT LIKE THIS. IT ISN'T FAIR!

I TORE THE ROSE OFF MY LABEL AND THREW IT IN THE GUTTER.....

I WON'T WEAR IT! I WON'T!

THEN I PICKED IT UP AGAIN, AND AS I DID SO, I KNEW THAT I COULD NEVER LOVE ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD BUT DWIGHT! AT THAT MOMENT, I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO.

DWIGHT, MY DARLING! I'LL NEVER LOVE ANOTHER!

THAT NIGHT...

BILL, I'VE DECIDED I CAN'T MARRY YOU. IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO EITHER OF US!

I UNDERSTAND, WANDA, I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN YOU LOVED DWIGHT.

PERHAPS SOMEDAY YOU WILL FIND A GIRL YOU CAN LOVE, ONE WHO WILL LOVE YOU IN RETURN, BILL-I HOPE SO.....

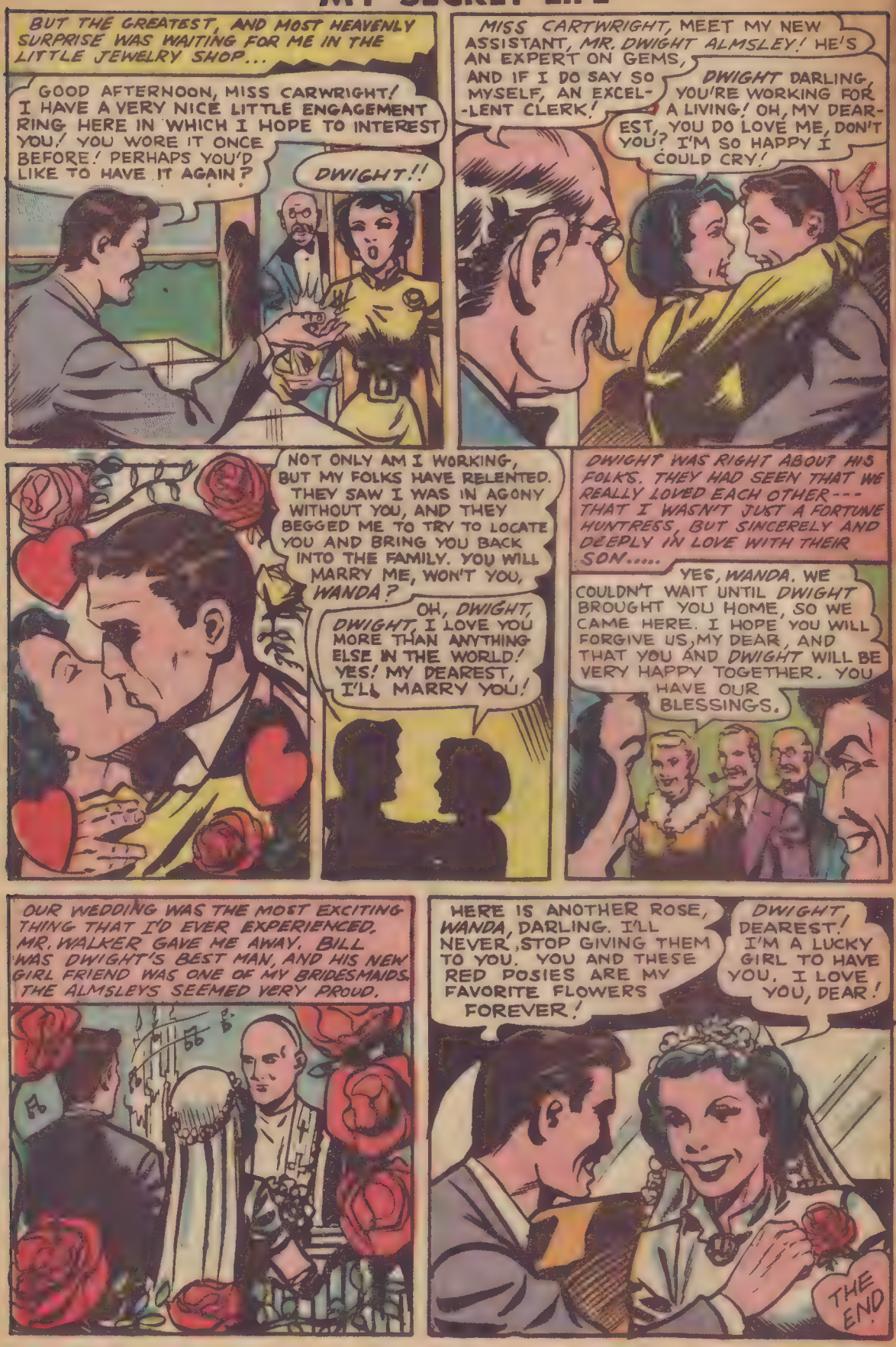
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, WANDA, I DON'T KNOW. ANYWAY, I HOPE WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS.

OF COURSE WE WILL, BILL! WE'LL GO ON SEEING EACH OTHER WHENEVER POSSIBLE, BUT IT MUSTN'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR CHANCES OF FINDING SOMEONE TO LOVE!

MY SECRET LIFE

ONE DAY I GOT THE SURPRISE OF MY LIFE.
MR WALKER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WANDA, YOU KNOW I'VE ALWAYS BEEN VERY FOND OF YOU. I'VE CONSIDERED YOU MORE OR LESS AS A DAUGHTER OF MINE. YOU HAVE NO PARENTS, AND I HAVE NO FAMILY. I HAD TO COME TO STOP YOU FROM MAKING A MISTAKE!
YOU MEAN MARRYING BILL? I'VE BROKEN OFF MY ENGAGEMENT. I REALIZED JUST IN TIME THAT NEITHER OF US COULD FIND HAPPINESS TOGETHER.
THAT'S A RELIEF! I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MESS UP YOUR LIFE OR BILL'S LIFE!
MR. WALKER, IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO WORRIES ABOUT ME. IT'S LIKE HAVING A REAL FATHER! DID YOU CLOSE UP YOUR SHOP JUST TO COME HERE TO SEE ME?
NO! I'VE ENTRUSTED THE PLACE TO MY NEW ASSISTANT. BUT WANDA, I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO HAVE YOU COME BACK! WILL YOU?
WOULD I! I MISSED THE LITTLE JEWELRY SHOP AND THE GEMS I LOVED SO WELL. I LIKED BEING A WAITRESS, BUT I KNEW THAT BILL WOULD HAVE MORE OF A CHANCE TO FIND A NEW LOVE IF I WEREN'T AROUND.
YES, I'LL RETURN. BUT I'LL HAVE TO GIVE NOTICE HERE. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!
I'LL EXPECT YOU IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS THEN. GOOD-BY FOR NOW, WANDA.
TWO WEEKS LATER, WHEN THE NEW WAITRESS WAS ESTABLISHED IN MY JOB, I SAID SO LONG TO BILL AT THE RAILROAD STATION, AND HEADED HOME!
GOOD-BY, BILL. I'LL WRITE TO YOU--- AND I DO HOPE YOU'LL FIND HAPPI--NESS SOMEWHERE.
IT'S NOT GOOD-BY, IT'S AU REVOIR, FOR WE ARE FRIENDS WANDA. LOTS OF LUCK!
RAILROAD E
IN THE TRAIN I WONDERED IF I WOULD EVER SEE DWIGHT AGAIN. PERHAPS HE WOULD COME IN AS A CUSTOMER. OUR ASSOCIATION WOULD HAVE TO BE STRICTLY BUSINESS!
WELCOME HOME, WANDA. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK!
THANKS FOR COMING TO MEET ME, MR. WALKER. YOU KNOW, I'M ALMOST TEMPTED TO CALL YOU 'DAD.' IN FACT, I THINK I WILL. DAD, THAT SOUNDS NICE!
THANKS, MY DEAR. IT GIVES ME A SENSE OF BELONGING, TOO. THERE'S NO ONE IN THE WORLD I'D LIKE BETTER TO HAVE AS A DAUGHTER.
8

MY SECRET LIFE


BUT THE GREATEST, AND MOST HEAVENLY SURPRISE WAS WAITING FOR ME IN THE LITTLE JEWELRY SHOP...
GOOD AFTERNOON, MISS CARWRIGHT! I HAVE A VERY NICE LITTLE ENGAGEMENT RING HERE IN WHICH I HOPE TO INTEREST YOU! YOU WORE IT ONCE BEFORE! PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE IT AGAIN?
DWIGHT!!
MISS CARTWRIGHT, MEET MY NEW ASSISTANT, MR. DWIGHT ALMSLEY! HE'S AN EXPERT ON GEMS, AND IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF, AN EXCEL--LENT CLERK!
DWIGHT DARLING, YOU'RE WORKING FOR A LIVING! OH, MY DEAR-EST, YOU DO LOVE ME, DON'T YOU? I'M SO HAPPY I COULD CRY!
NOT ONLY AM I WORKING, BUT MY FOLKS HAVE RELENTED. THEY SAW I WAS IN AGONY WITHOUT YOU, AND THEY BEGGED ME TO TRY TO LOCATE YOU AND BRING YOU BACK INTO THE FAMILY. YOU WILL MARRY ME, WON'T YOU, WANDA?
OH, DWIGHT, DWIGHT, I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD! YES! MY DEAREST, I'LL MARRY YOU!
DWIGHT WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIS FOLKS. THEY HAD SEEN THAT WE REALLY LOVED EACH OTHER--- THAT I WASN'T JUST A FORTUNE HUNTRESS, BUT SINCERELY AND DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH THEIR SON.....
YES, WANDA. WE COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL DWIGHT BROUGHT YOU HOME, SO WE CAME HERE. I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE US, MY DEAR, AND THAT YOU AND DWIGHT WILL BE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER. YOU HAVE OUR BLESSINGS.
OUR WEDDING WAS THE MOST EXCITING THING THAT I'D EVER EXPERIENCED. MR. WALKER GAVE ME AWAY. BILL WAS DWIGHT'S BEST MAN, AND HIS NEW GIRL FRIEND WAS ONE OF MY BRIDESMAIDS. THE ALMSLEYS SEEMED VERY PROUD.
HERE IS ANOTHER ROSE, WANDA, DARLING. I'LL NEVER, STOP GIVING THEM TO YOU. YOU AND THESE RED POSIES ARE MY FAVORITE FLOWERS FOREVER!
DWIGHT, DEAREST, I'M A LUCKY GIRL TO HAVE YOU. I LOVE YOU, DEAR!
THE END

Dear Miss Mason...

Do you have a love problem you cannot solve? Let DIANE MASON try to help you. Write to: Diane Mason, MY SECRET LIFE, Suite 721, 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Miss Mason:

I am very popular. There isn't a night that I couldn't have a date, but here's my problem. Not one boy has ever asked me out a second time. What's wrong, Miss Mason? I don't like going out with a different boy every night.

S. S.
Seattle, Wash.

Dear S. S.

You'll have to examine yourself to discover why no one wants to see you a second time. Are you too bold? Do you try too hard to hold onto a date? Maybe you argue too much and are too demanding. Read the column on the next page for some date tips.

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Miss Mason:

My girl friend always goes to public dances. She has met some nice men there, but some of them weren't so nice. Now, she insists that I go with her. I don't want to lose her friendship and I don't want to go to public dances. I don't think they're very nice. What shall I do, Miss Mason?

B. C.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear B. C.

Public dances are not good places to meet men. They attract every type of person. Tell your girl friend that. Aren't there other places for the two of you to go, in order to meet men? Join a young people's church group, take a course in a night school, join clubs. If you talk this over with her, I'm sure you won't lose her friendship.

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Miss Mason:

I went steady with a boy for four months. He broke up with me and I don't know why. I never had a chance to ask him, because he won't speak to me. I still like him very much and he knows it, but I guess he doesn't care for me any more. He doesn't go out with other girls. What should I do to win him back?

Troubled
Rockville, Conn.

Dear Troubled:

Do absolutely nothing to win him back. If he won't even speak to you, forget him. Never nurse a broken heart. Get out and go with other boys. If he sees you going out, he may change. Perhaps he was afraid you were getting to like him too much, and isn't ready for love and marriage.

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Miss Mason:

I am nineteen years old and my fiancé is in the Army. He is going to be transferred to another state soon and he wants me to come there and marry him. I have a sister in the town where he will be stationed. I could marry him and stay with her. I love him very much. Should I go there and marry him?

D. A.
Louisville, Ky.

Dear D. A.

It is never wise to be married away from home, but having a sister in the same town is all right. If you love this man and want to be a soldier's wife for a time, don't hesitate. I am sure everything will work out for you if the arrangements are planned correctly.

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Miss Mason:

I am a young girl living in a small town. I love my best girl friend's boy friend. She doesn't care for him any more as she has another boy friend.

(Continued on next page)

DEAR MISS MASON

I don't want to hurt her by taking her former boy friend. What shall I do, Miss Mason?

M. W.
Eldridge, Mo.

Dear M. W.

You can't possibly hurt your girl friend by taking her former boy friend. Why should she want to hold onto two men? Tell her you love the boy she used to go with. I am sure she will raise no objections. If she does, she isn't a very good friend of yours.

♥

Dear Miss Mason:

I am sixteen years old and I like a boy who is out of town. How can I get him to ask me for a date? I want to get better acquainted with him. He knows I like him but he never asks me for a date. When he's in town, he says hello, but that's all. Please tell me what to do.

V. A.
Sterling, Ohio

Dear V. A.

Keep on being friendly with this boy you like. That's about all you can do without appearing bold. There may be another solution. Does he eat lunch in town or spend time in a drug store or sweet shop? Try to find out. Then be at this place when he's there. Don't force yourself. Just be pleasant. Maybe if he sees you often enough, he'll notice you and ask you for a date.

♥

I'd like to answer every letter that is sent to me, but it's impossible. There isn't time or space in this column. If I don't answer you personally, keep reading this column. In the near future you'll find a problem similar to your own. *Don't forget to write!*

—Diane Mason

DATE TIPS

♥

"How to Get That Second Date"

You've finally had a date with your dream man, and now you're sitting near the phone waiting for him to call. Only silence greets you and you question yourself. "What did I do wrong? Why doesn't he like me?"

There may be many reasons, but the biggest reason may be that he didn't feel comfortable with you. There were long stretches of silence and the whole evening bogged down into a flat soggy pancake.

Now the next time you get a first date and really want another, here are a few tips for you. Be sweet from the moment he enters your home. Let him talk to your parents and add to the conversation. Don't argue with Mother, Dad, or the kids. Your boy friend will like you better if you don't. Remember, he has a family too.

To keep the evening lively and to keep your boy friend happy and comfortable, it's up to you to get the conversation started. The best way is to start with a question. When you're alone, tell him when you noticed him first. If possible remark about what he was wearing at the time. This will flatter him. Your follow-up is, "When was the first time you noticed me?" Now he'll talk and before long you'll be reminiscing happily.

When that topic is exhausted, speak about some mutual friend. Never be a gossip, just question what he thinks about different people. Another good starter is the movies. Ask him who his favorite star is and what pictures he's seen lately. This last can go on for a long time, if you're both interested in the movies.

Dogs are a wonderful topic—or any pets for that matter. Ask him about his pets, then discuss feeding, cute tricks they do, etc.

If your boy friend is the serious type, open a conversation with some news item that has appeared lately. (You might look one up before he comes.) This will open a wonderful avenue of talk. You won't have to be brilliant. Just listen to him.

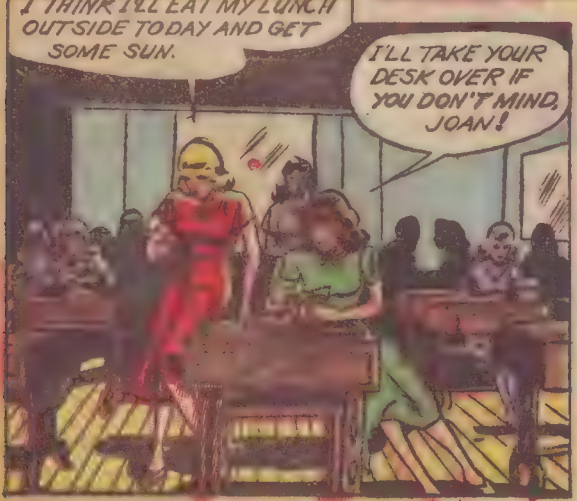
As a last warning, never open a conversation with a question that requires only a 'yes' or a 'no.' It will be over before you start.

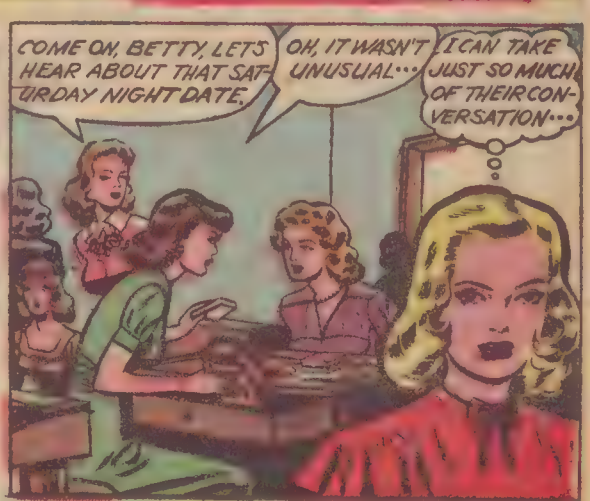
If you readers have any date tips, send them to me. I'll be glad to publish them.—Diane Mason

I WAS A DELINQUENT

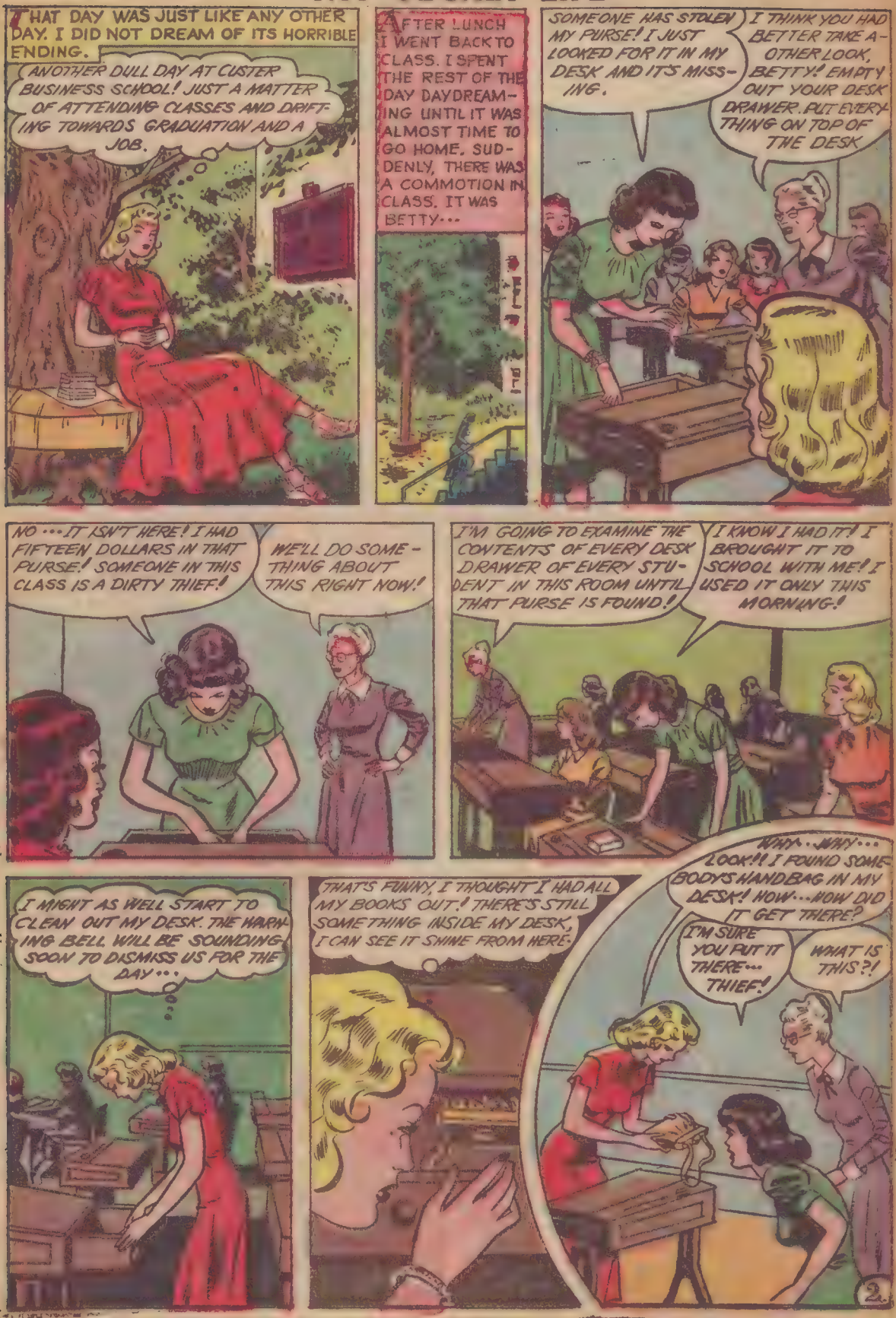
HEY! GET YOUR HANDS OFF.. .. AGGHH!!
YOU'RE A BIT FORWARD, BOY! TRY COOLING THAT ARDOR OFF WITH THIS!
OH, MORE TROUBLE! WHY DOES EVERYTHING HAPPEN TO ME? HOW WILL I EVER GET OUT OF HERE?
CRACK!
I WAS A "DELINQUENT" BY THE MORALS AND STANDARDS OF THE EDUCATORS OF THE BUSINESS SCHOOL I ATTENDED. I COULDN'T TAKE THEIR BITING CONDEMNATIONS AND THE UNJUSTIFIED LABELS THEY THREW AT ME. THEIR WORDS BURNED LIKE ACID. FOOLISHLY, I SOUGHT EXCITEMENT - AND FOUND IT. THE LABELS GREW UNTIL I HEARD - "SHE'S BAD! SHE'S A THIEF! SHE'S NO GOOD," RINGING IN MY EARS.....

I RECEIVED MY REPUTATION AS A DELINQUENT ONE DAY AT THE BUSINESS SCHOOL I ATTENDED.

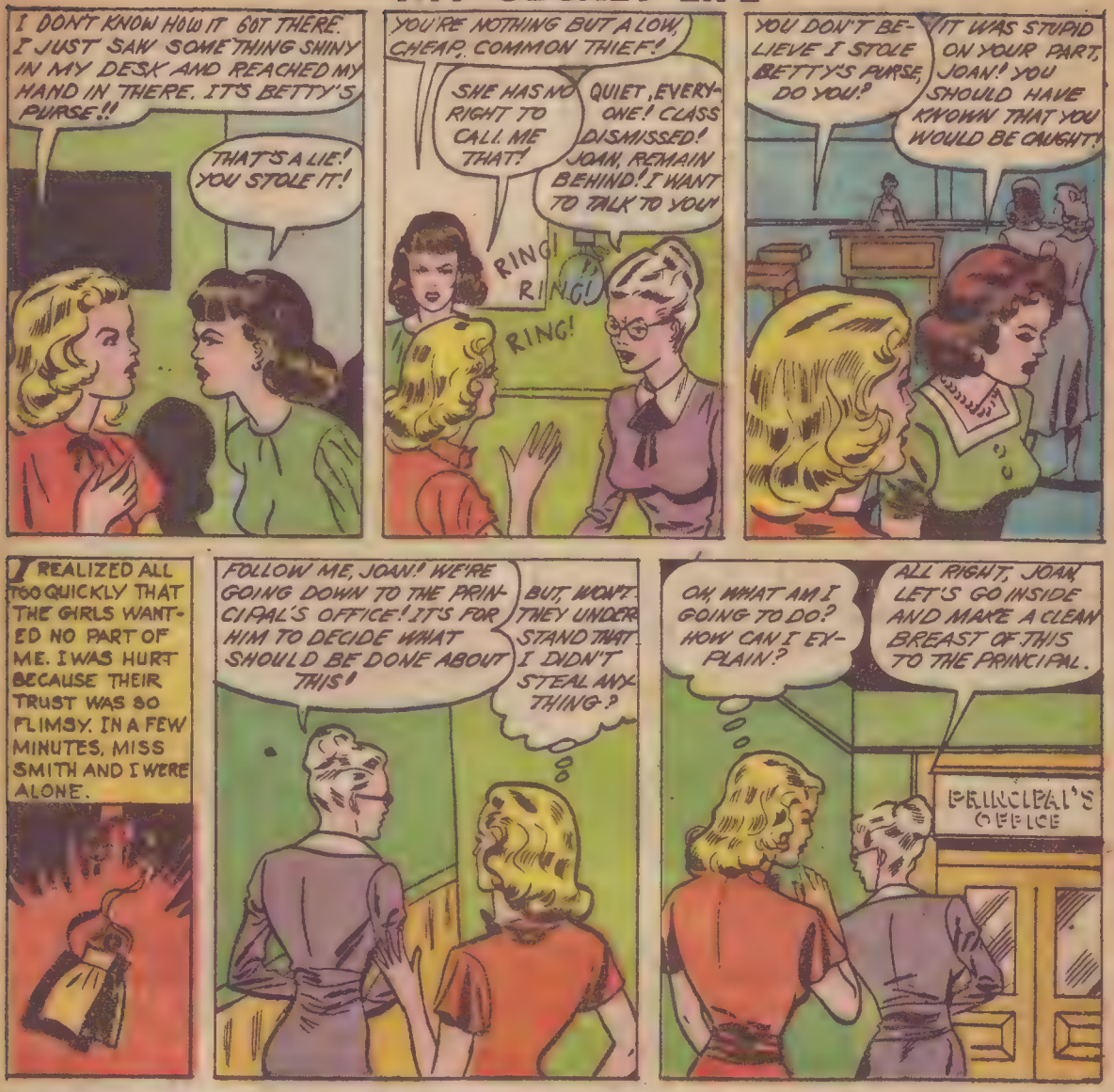




MY SECRET LIFE


THAT DAY WAS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER DAY. I DID NOT DREAM OF ITS HORRIBLE ENDING.
ANOTHER DULL DAY AT CUSTER BUSINESS SCHOOL! JUST A MATTER OF ATTENDING CLASSES AND DRIFTING TOWARDS GRADUATION AND A JOB.
AFTER LUNCH I WENT BACK TO CLASS. I SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY DAYDREAMING UNTIL IT WAS ALMOST TIME TO GO HOME. SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A COMMOTION IN CLASS. IT WAS BETTY...
SOMEONE HAS STOLEN MY PURSE! I JUST LOOKED FOR IT IN MY DESK AND IT'S MISSING.
I THINK YOU HAD BETTER TAKE ANOTHER LOOK, BETTY! EMPTY OUT YOUR DESK DRAWER. PUT EVERYTHING ON TOP OF THE DESK
NO ... IT ISN'T HERE! I HAD FIFTEEN DOLLARS IN THAT PURSE! SOMEONE IN THIS CLASS IS A DIRTY THIEF!
WE'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS RIGHT NOW!
I'M GOING TO EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF EVERY DESK DRAWER OF EVERY STUDENT IN THIS ROOM UNTIL THAT PURSE IS FOUND!
I KNOW I HAD IT! I BROUGHT IT TO SCHOOL WITH ME! I USED IT ONLY THIS MORNING!
I MIGHT AS WELL START TO CLEAN OUT MY DESK. THE WARNING BELL WILL BE SOUNDING SOON TO DISMISS US FOR THE DAY...
THAT'S FUNNY, I THOUGHT I HAD ALL MY BOOKS OUT! THERE'S STILL SOMETHING INSIDE MY DESK. I CAN SEE IT SHINE FROM HERE.
WHY... WHY... LOOK!! I FOUND SOME BODYS HANDBAG IN MY DESK! NOW... HOW DID IT GET THERE?
I'M SURE YOU PUT IT THERE... THIEF!
WHAT IS THIS?!
2.

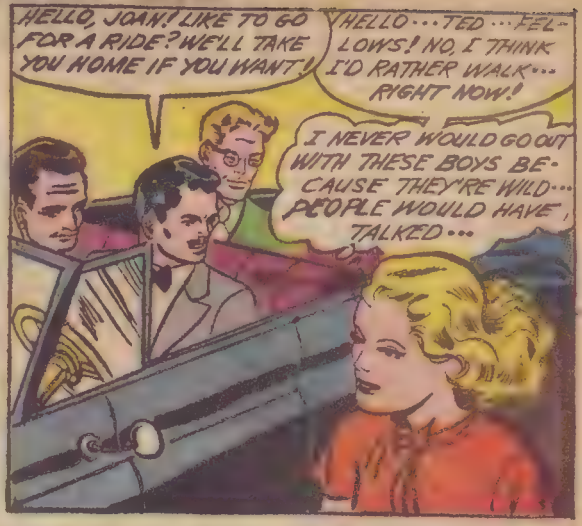
MY SECRET LIFE

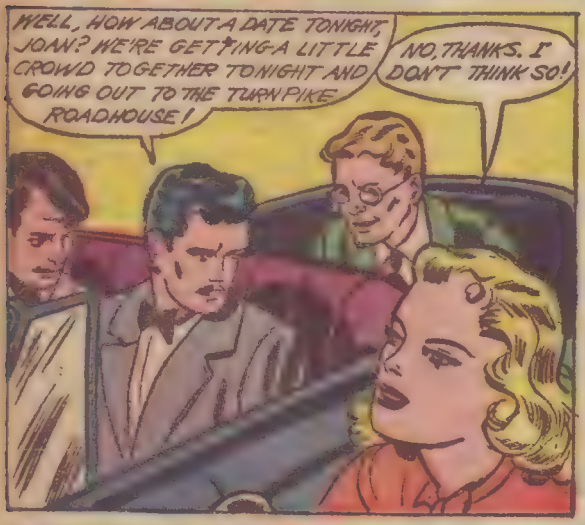

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT GOT THERE. I JUST SAW SOMETHING SHINY IN MY DESK AND REACHED MY HAND IN THERE. IT'S BETTY'S PURSE!!
THAT'S A LIE! YOU STOLE IT!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A LOW, CHEAP, COMMON THIEF!
SHE HAS NO RIGHT TO CALL ME THAT!
QUIET, EVERYONE! CLASS DISMISSED! JOAN, REMAIN BEHIND! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
RING! RING! RING!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE I STOLE BETTY'S PURSE, DO YOU?
IT WAS STUPID ON YOUR PART, JOAN! YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU WOULD BE CAUGHT!
I REALIZED ALL TOO QUICKLY THAT THE GIRLS WANTED NO PART OF ME. I WAS HURT BECAUSE THEIR TRUST WAS SO FLIMSY. IN A FEW MINUTES, MISS SMITH AND I WERE ALONE.
FOLLOW ME, JOAN! WE'RE GOING DOWN TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE! IT'S FOR HIM TO DECIDE WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THIS!
BUT, WON'T THEY UNDERSTAND THAT I DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING?
OH, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? HOW CAN I EXPLAIN?
ALL RIGHT, JOAN, LET'S GO INSIDE AND MAKE A CLEAN BREAST OF THIS TO THE PRINCIPAL.
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
A MINUTE LATER I STOOD BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL...
...AND THEN WHEN I CAME TO HER DESK, SHE CLAIMED TO HAVE FOUND THE STOLEN PURSE IN HER DRAWER.
A CONVENIENT TIME TO MAKE A DISCOVERY!
YOU MAY GO, MISS SMITH! I'LL HANDLE THIS! NOW, YOUNG LADY, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
I DIDN'T STEAL BETTY'S PURSE! I JUST GOT AN IDEA. I THINK I KNOW HOW IT CAME TO BE IN MY DESK!

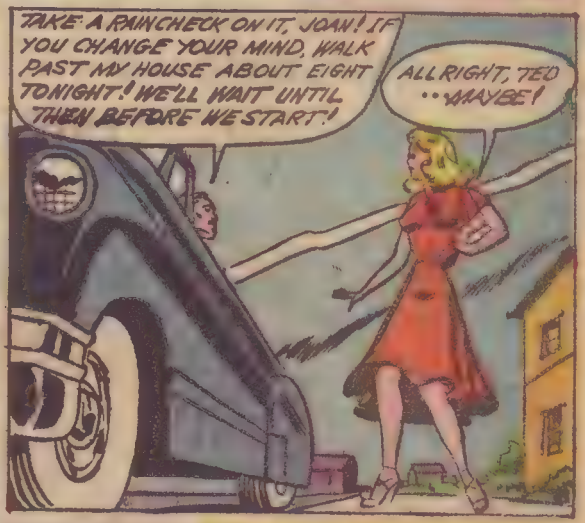
MY SECRET LIFE

YES ··· HMMM ··· WHAT IS YOUR STORY? IT HAD BETTER BE A GOOD STORY!
I'LL TAKE YOUR DESK OVER IF YOU DON'T MIND, JOAN!
THIS NOON I ATE MY LUNCH IN THE YARD. BETTY TOOK MY SEAT! SHE MUST HAVE LEFT HER PURSE IN MY DESK THEN! SHE MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN IT! I DIDN'T STEAL IT!
YOU HAVE A VERY ACTIVE IMAGINATION, YOUNG LADY ··· TO MAKE UP THAT STORY ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT! YOU STOLE THAT PURSE ··· AND DON'T TRY TO DENY IT! YOU'RE A THIEF!
NOTHING GOOD WILL COME OF A BAD GIRL WHO STEALS! YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO YOURSELF, TO YOUR FAMILY, YOUR CLASS, AND THE SCHOOL!! NO DOUBT, YOU'RE A PRODUCT OF A BAD HOME LIFE!!
I WALKED OUT OF SCHOOL THAT DAY ··· BEWILDERED, CONFUSED, AND UNHAPPY ··
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I WON'T BE ABLE TO LOOK ANYBODY IN THE FACE ANYMORE. I DON'T KNOW IF I DARE TELL MOTHER AND DAD WHAT HAPPENED. THEY WOULD BE SO ASHAMED ····
I AM SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING EXPELLING YOU FROM SCHOOL BEFORE YOU GRADUATE! WE CAN'T SEND THIEVES INTO OFFICES! YOU'RE DISMISSED!!
I ··· DIDN'T ··· (SOB) ···· STEAL ··· THE PURSE!!
HELLO, ANYBODY WALKING HOME?
I'M CHOOSY ABOUT WHOM I AM SEEN WITH.
THEY'VE TURNED AWAY FROM ME ····
4

MY SECRET LIFE

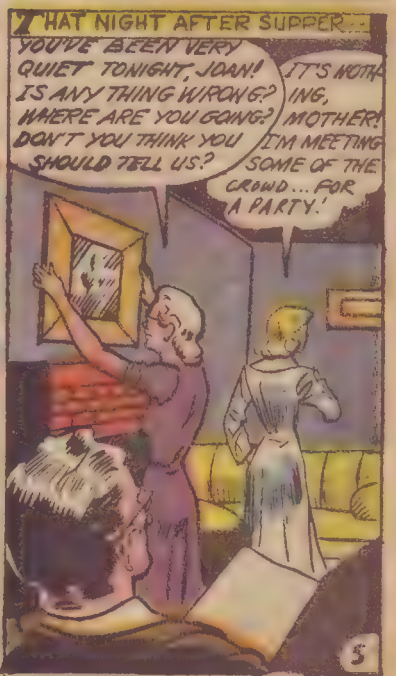

HELLO, JOAN! LIKE TO GO FOR A RIDE? WE'LL TAKE YOU HOME IF YOU WANT!
HELLO... TED... FELLOWS! NO, I THINK I'D RATHER WALK... RIGHT NOW!
I NEVER WOULD GO OUT WITH THESE BOYS BECAUSE THEY'RE WILD... PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TALKED...


WELL, HOW ABOUT A DATE TONIGHT, JOAN? WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE CROWD TOGETHER TONIGHT AND GOING OUT TO THE TURNPIKE ROADHOUSE!
NO, THANKS. I DON'T THINK SO!


TAKE A RAINCHECK ON IT, JOAN! IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, WALK PAST MY HOUSE ABOUT EIGHT TONIGHT! WE'LL WAIT UNTIL THEN BEFORE WE START!
ALL RIGHT, TED ... MAYBE!

MAYBE I'M A FOOL FOR SAYING NO TO TED. I NEVER WANTED TO GO OUT WITH THAT CROWD BEFORE BECAUSE OF WHAT PEOPLE WOULD SAY. BUT WHAT'S THE POINT NOW? EVERYBODY THINKS I'M BAD. THEY THINK I'M A THIEF.

EVERYBODY THINKS I'M BAD NOW, AND I'M NOT HAVING THE FUN OF BEING BAD... I MIGHT AS WELL ACT THAT WAY. AS LONG AS I'M PAINTED CHEAP I'LL GIVE PEOPLE A REAL REASON FOR THINKING I'M NO GOOD...

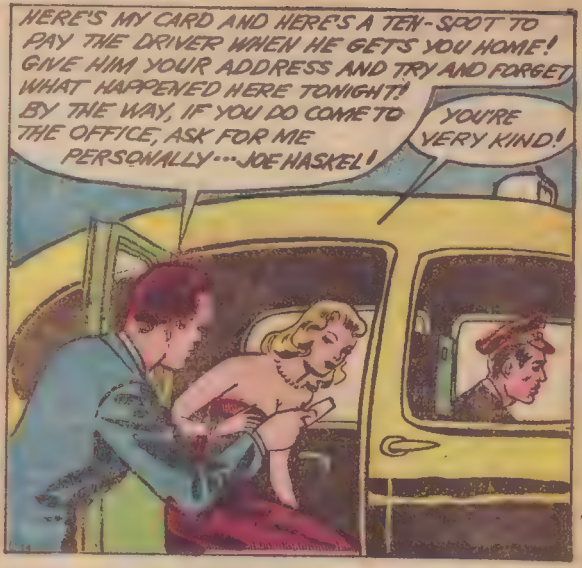

THAT NIGHT AFTER SUPPER...
YOU'VE BEEN VERY QUIET TONIGHT, JOAN! IS ANYTHING WRONG? WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD TELL US?
IT'S NOTHING, MOTHER! I'M MEETING SOME OF THE CROWD... FOR A PARTY!

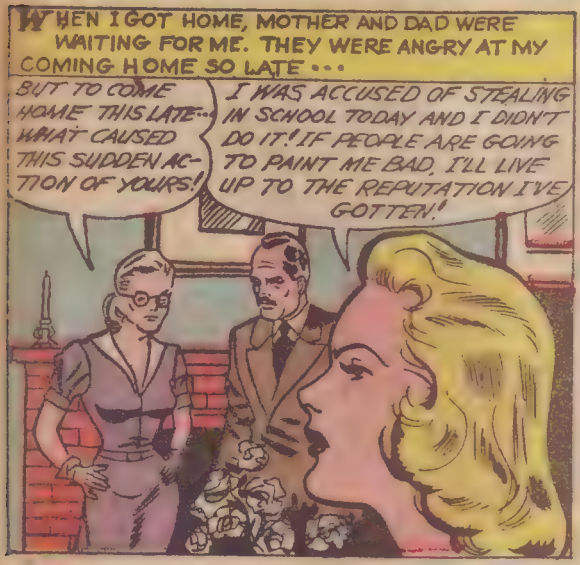
MY SECRET LIFE

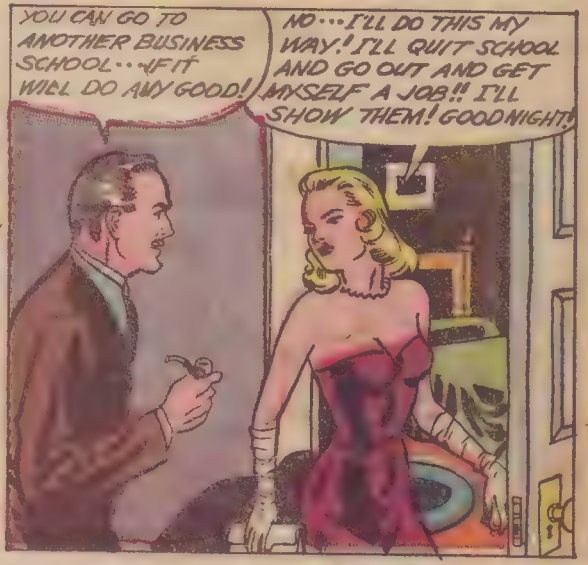
I'M TIRED OF TAKING ORDERS FROM EVERYONE AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS! IT NEVER DID ME ANY GOOD··· ONLY GOT ME THE NAME OF THIEF! FROM NOW ON, I'LL DO AS I PLEASE!! I'LL GIVE PEOPLE A CHANCE TO THINK BADLY OF ME!
LATER···
I KNEW YOU'D SHOW UP, JOAN! DON'T WORRY··· YOU'LL HAVE A GOOD TIME TONIGHT!
I···HOPE SO! LET'S NOT GET BACK TOO LATE!
HO··· LISTEN TO HER!
YOU'LL LIKE THE TURNPIKE ROAD HOUSE, JOAN! IT'S A WILD JOINT AND YOU CAN GET ANYTHING YOU LIKE THERE! THE BAND REALLY KNOWS HOW TO TEAR A MELODY APART!
THAT'S WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW!
LATER···
IT'S A LITTLE WARM, TED, AND YOU'RE HOLDING ME VERY TIGHT!
AW, COME ON, JOAN, LET'S HAVE FUN! DON'T BE A KILL JOY.
I-I DON'T FEEL WELL···
COME ON WITH ME, JOAN. WE'LL GET SOME FRESH AIR. YOU'LL FEEL A LOT BETTER.
TED LED ME TO THE LITTLE ROOM OFF THE BAR WHICH WASN'T SO CROWDED···
I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW, TED. MAYBE WE SHOULD GO HOME!
DON'T BE A WET BLANKET, JOAN! COME ON, GIVE ME A KISS
COME ON, KID, CUT IT OUT!
LET ME GO OR I'LL SCRATCH YOU! GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
HEY! GET YOUR HANDS OFF··· AGGHH!!
YOU'RE JUST A BIT TOO FORWARD, BOY! TRY COOLING THAT ARDOR OFF FOR A WHILE!!
CRACK-K!

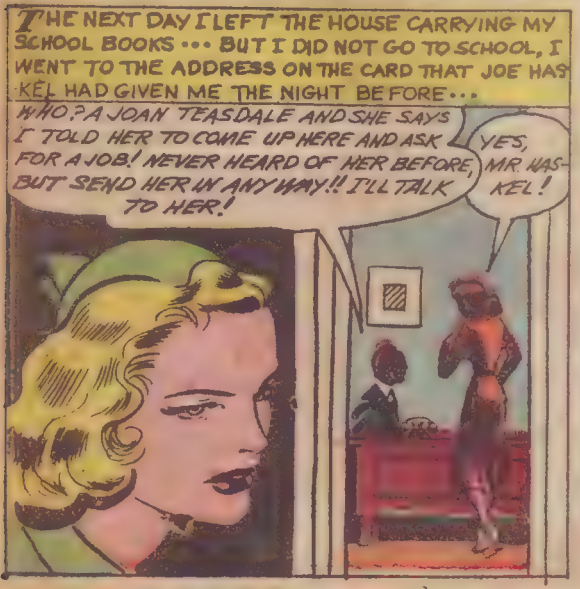
MY SECRET LIFE

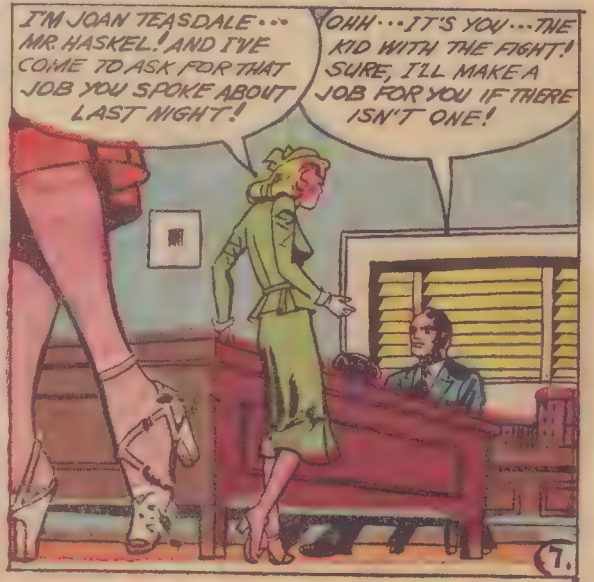
I LIKE YOUR SPUNK, KID! IF YOU EVER WANT A JOB, I'LL GIVE YOU MY CARD AND YOU CAN COME IN TO SEE ME! I'M GOING TO SEND YOU HOME RIGHT NOW!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!


HERE'S MY CARD AND HERE'S A TEN-SPOT TO PAY THE DRIVER WHEN HE GETS YOU HOME! GIVE HIM YOUR ADDRESS AND TRY AND FORGET WHAT HAPPENED HERE TONIGHT! BY THE WAY, IF YOU DO COME TO THE OFFICE, ASK FOR ME PERSONALLY··· JOE HASKEL!
YOU'RE VERY KIND!


WHEN I GOT HOME, MOTHER AND DAD WERE WAITING FOR ME. THEY WERE ANGRY AT MY COMING HOME SO LATE···
BUT TO COME HOME THIS LATE··· WHAT CAUSED THIS SUDDEN ACTION OF YOURS!
I WAS ACCUSED OF STEALING IN SCHOOL TODAY AND I DIDN'T DO IT! IF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO PAINT ME BAD, I'LL LIVE UP TO THE REPUTATION I'VE GOTTEN!


YOU CAN GO TO ANOTHER BUSINESS SCHOOL··· IF IT WILL DO ANY GOOD!
NO··· I'LL DO THIS MY WAY! I'LL QUIT SCHOOL AND GO OUT AND GET MYSELF A JOB!! I'LL SHOW THEM! GOOD NIGHT!


THE NEXT DAY I LEFT THE HOUSE CARRYING MY SCHOOL BOOKS··· BUT I DID NOT GO TO SCHOOL, I WENT TO THE ADDRESS ON THE CARD THAT JOE HASKEL HAD GIVEN ME THE NIGHT BEFORE···
WHO? A JOAN TEASDALE AND SHE SAYS I TOLD HER TO COME UP HERE AND ASK FOR A JOB! NEVER HEARD OF HER BEFORE, BUT SEND HER IN ANY WAY!! I'LL TALK TO HER!
YES, MR. HASKEL!

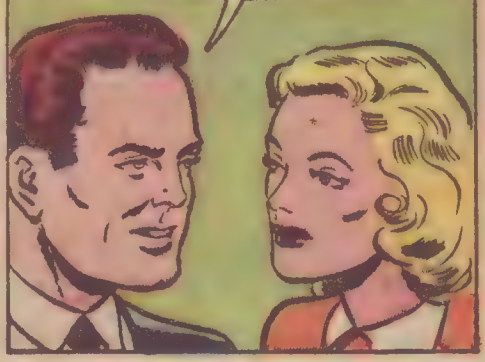

I'M JOAN TEASDALE··· MR. HASKEL! AND I'VE COME TO ASK FOR THAT JOB YOU SPOKE ABOUT LAST NIGHT!
OHH··· IT'S YOU··· THE KID WITH THE FIGHT! SURE, I'LL MAKE A JOB FOR YOU IF THERE ISN'T ONE!

MY SECRET LIFE

I WENT TO WORK THE SAME DAY AS A BOOKKEEPER IN JOE HASKEL'S OFFICE. I PICKED UP THE WORK RAPIDLY. MR. HASKEL WAS VERY SATISFIED, AND I BEGAN TO ASSUME MORE AND MORE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FIRM ····

AFTER A FEW WEEKS ···

YOU'VE BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB, JOAN, AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE REWARDED! MY LAWYER'LL BE HERE SOON AND HE'LL HANDLE THE PAPER WORK ON YOUR PROMOTION! I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU AN OFFICER OF THE FIRM.



YOU'LL HAVE THE POWER TO SIGN CHECKS! YOU CAN TAKE SOME OF THE PAPER WORK OFF MY HANDS THEN! HELLO, CHARLES! JOAN, THIS IS CHARLES DERWELL, MY LAWYER!

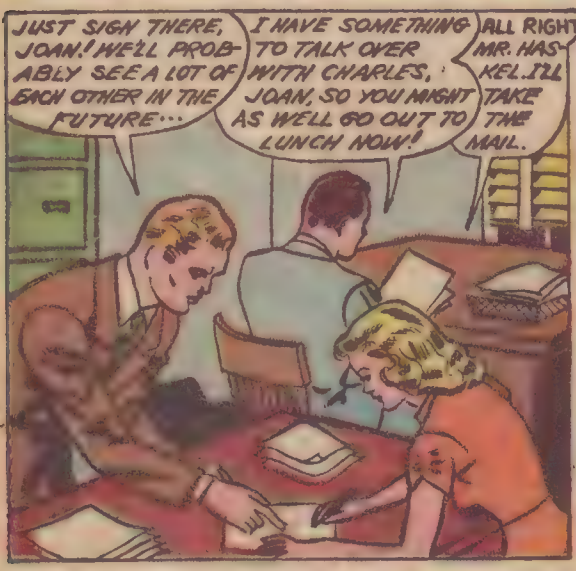
HELLO, JOAN!

HOW DO YOU DO?

JUST SIGN THERE, JOAN! WE'LL PROBABLY SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER IN THE FUTURE···

I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK OVER WITH CHARLES, JOAN, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO OUT TO LUNCH NOW!

ALL RIGHT MR. HASKEL. I'LL TAKE THE MAIL.



ABOUT TEN MINUTES LATER, I LEFT THE OFFICE WITH A BIG PILE OF LETTERS. I PLANNED TO GO TO THE POST OFFICE BEFORE LUNCH···

OOOPS!! WHY DON'T YOU WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GO···OH···MR. DERWELL! I'M SORRY!

CALL ME CHARLES, JOAN! I'M SORRY··· MY FAULT! LET ME HELP YOU!

LET ME TAKE YOU TO LUNCH AFTER WE MAIL THIS STUFF. THEN WE CAN GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A WONDERFUL IDEA!

I LIKED CHARLES AND BEFORE I KNEW IT··· I WAS TELLING HIM EVERYTHING AS WE ATE LUNCH ···

AND SO I TOOK THE JOB AND QUIT BUSINESS SCHOOL!

THAT WAS A SHAME!

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN IN TO A BAD BREAK AND IDLE GOSSIP. YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUGHT AND PROVED YOU WERE INNOCENT! WELL, JUST BE CAREFUL OF THE PEOPLE YOU ASSOCIATE WITH IN THE FUTURE! YOU MEET SOME PRETTY BAD ONES IN BUSINESS, TOO, YOU KNOW!

MY SECRET LIFE

I SAW CHARLES ALMOST DAILY AND I REALIZED I WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM. ONE DAY I WORKED UP THE COURAGE TO USE HIS ADVICE AS AN EXCUSE FOR SUGGESTING A DATE…

REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT BEING CAREFUL ABOUT WHOM I ASSOCIATE WITH! WELL, IF A CERTAIN YOUNG LAWYER WOULD PRACTICE WHAT HE PREACHED, I'D BE IN VERY GOOD COMPANY THIS FRIDAY NIGHT!

JOAN, OF COURSE! I'M A FOOL! LET'S MAKE IT THIS FRIDAY NIGHT THEN!

THAT WEEK DRAGGED BY. FINALLY IT WAS FRIDAY NIGHT. I WAITED EXPECTANTLY AT HOME FOR CHARLES TO PICK ME UP. I WAS HAPPY IN LOVE. WITH HIM I COULD BLOT OUT THE UNHAPPINESS WHICH HAD TAGGED ME…

BUT… BUT… CHARLES… COULDN'T YOU DO THIS LAW WORK SOME OTHER TIME AND KEEP OUR DATE TONIGHT? IT MEANT SO MUCH TO ME… TO GO OUT WITH YOU! WELL… CHARLES… IF YOUR WORK IS THAT IMPORTANT… GOOD-BY!

I WONDER IF IT WAS WORK… OR A LAST MINUTE REALIZATION THAT I HAD THE REPUTATION OF A BAD GIRL? IS IT BECAUSE I WAS A DELINQUENT THAT CHARLES DERWELL CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT GOING OUT WITH ME? WELL, I'LL PICK MY OWN DATES IN THE FUTURE… WITHOUT ADVICE FROM ANYONE…

THE NEXT WEEK I SEIZED AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW CHARLES DERWELL THAT I DID NOT NEED HIM…

SURE, MR. HASKEL, I'M FREE THIS EVENING!

GOOD, JOAN! WE COULD USE SOME FUN. GO HOME FOR DINNER AND MEET ME BACK HERE AT THE OFFICE LATER. I'LL BE WORKING LATE!

MR HASKEL DID NOT CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT OUR DATE. HE TOOK ME TO AN EXCLUSIVE NIGHT CLUB…

WHY IS HE TAKING OUR PICTURE, MR. HASKEL? IT'S NOT GOING TO BE PUT IN THE NEWSPAPERS, IS IT?

PROBABLY JUST A STOCK PUBLICITY SHOT THAT THEY'RE SHOOTING! DON'T GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT!

LATER…

SEE YOU TOMORROW AT THE OFFICE, JOAN! LOTS OF BUSINESS TO CLEAR UP AT THE LAST MINUTE. I'M GOING TO SOUTH AMERICA IN A WEEK OR LESS, YOU KNOW!

OH, THAT'S NEWS! WELL I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, MR. HASKEL!!

MY SECRET LIFE

THE NEXT DAY AT THE OFFICE, TWO QUIET LOOKING GENTLEMEN ASKED TO SEE MR. HASKEL...

HOW DO YOU DO, MR. HASKEL? WE LEARNED THAT YOU BOOKED PASSAGE TO SOUTH AMERICA AND WE THOUGHT WE'D BEAT YOU TO THE PUNCH! WE'RE INTERNAL REVENUE AGENTS, AND WE'VE A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST FOR DEALING IN INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY ON THE BLACK MARKET!

JOAN... GET DERWELL ... MY LAWYER! HURRY!

IF YOU'RE MISS JOAN TEASDALE, WE HAVE A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST, TOO! YOU SIGNED THE CHECKS THAT HAVE COME INTO OUR POSSESSION!

NO...I...DIDN'T DO ANY THING!!

IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN! I'M ACCUSED OF A CRIME THAT I DIDN'T COMMIT! THIS TIME I'M REALLY IN TROUBLE...

LIFE BECAME ONE HORRIBLE, MISERABLE NIGHTMARE! I WAS DRAGGED BEFORE A GRAND JURY WITH MR. HASKEL AND INDICTED AS AN OFFICER OF THE FIRM WITH POWER TO SIGN THE CHECKS ON THE SURFACE I APPEARED AS GUILTY AS MR. HASKEL...

LAW

AT THE TRIAL, IT LOOKED AS IF I WOULD BE CONVICTED...

...AND I WILL LATER PROVE THAT THIS GIRL WAS IN ON THE WHOLE UNDERHANDED SCHEME. SHE WAS AN OFFICER OF THE FIRM...AND NOT INNOCENT AS SHE CLAIMS. SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS DOING WHEN SHE SIGNED THOSE CHECKS! SHE WAS A CONFIDANTE OF JOE HASKEL AS REVEALED IN A NIGHT-CLUB PHOTOGRAPH...I SHALL ALSO PROVE SHE WAS A DELINQUENT - A THIEF!

EARLY IN THE TRIAL, CHARLES DERWELL ASKED PERMISSION TO MAKE A STATEMENT...

YOU MAY MAKE YOUR STATEMENT, MR. DERWELL! I BELIEVE WHAT YOU TOLD ME IN MY CHAMBERS JUSTIFIES THIS IRREGULARITY.

CHARLES DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME! HE NEVER DID. OH, I DON'T HAVE A FRIEND IN THE WORLD!

JOAN TEASDALE IS COMPLETELY INNOCENT! I DREW UP THE PAPERS FOR MY CLIENT, JOE HASKEL, IN AN EFFORT TO RELIEVE HIM OF LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY! BUT I WON'T SEE AN INNOCENT PERSON SUFFER!! MAKE THE MOST OF THAT!

JUST A MOMENT, MR. DERWELL! IS THERE AN EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT BETWEEN YOU AND MISS TEASDALE?

I'M GLAD TO BE FORCED TO MAKE THIS PROFESSION UNDER OATH! I AM IN LOVE WITH JOAN TEASDALE. LIKE A FOOL, I DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL SHE WAS ENDANGERED! I KNOW I'VE RISKED MY PROFESSIONAL STATUS IN ADMITTING AN UNDERHANDED LEGAL DEVICE HERE, BUT THAT GIRL'S INNOCENCE IS MORE IMPORTANT! ALSO I INTEND TO PROVE SHE IS NOT A THIEF.

THE COURTROOM WAS A BEDLAM...AND THE JUDGE WAS FORCED TO DECLARE A MISTRIAL. THE PROSECUTOR DROPPED HIS INDICTMENT AGAINST ME. JOE HASKEL WAS TRIED AND CONVICTED. THE IMPORTANT MOMENT FOR ME WAS WHEN CHARLES AND I WERE ALONE.

.....MARRY ME...DARLING! YOU'RE A WONDERFUL GIRL, AND EVEN IF YOU DO ATTRACT EXCITEMENT...I LOVE YOU!

CHARLES, YOU'RE SWEET! KISS ME, DARLING! KISS THIS FORMER DELINQUENT!

New silk-finish enlargement, ivory gold-tooled frame

Sensational Offer Only 19¢ EACH

FROM YOUR FAVORITE SNAPSHOT, PHOTOGRAPH OR NEGATIVE

Send Any Photo For Beautiful 5x7 Inch ENLARGEMENT On This SPECIAL GET-ACQUAINTED OFFER! Your Original Returned

Have you ever wished you could have your own favorite picture or snapshot enlarged like the pictures of Movie Stars? If you act now, you can make your wish come true. Just to get acquainted, we will make you a handsome, silk finish enlargement, mounted in a rich, gold-tooled frame with glassine front and standing easel back for only 19c each for the Picture and Frame, plus cost of mailing. Hundreds of thousands of people have already taken advantage of this generous offer, and to acquaint millions more like yourself with the famous studio portrait quality of our work, we now make this trial offer to you.

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RUSH YOUR ORDER! Your enlargement will be shipped direct from our Hollywood studios!

IMPORTANT!—DO NOT ENCLOSE ANY MONEY

to Receive Your Beautiful New Silk Finish ENLARGEMENT and Ivory Gold-Tooled Frame

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SEND NO MONEY! Mail Coupon Today!

HOLLYWOOD FILM STUDIOS, Dept. 7907
1227 Loyola Ave., Chicago 26, Ill.

Enclosed find _____ snapshot or negative. (Specify number, limit 2)

Please make _____ Enlargement and Frame. (Specify number, limit 2)

I will pay postman only 19c each for Enlargement and Frame, on arrival, plus mailing costs, on your 10-day money-back guarantee offer.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ( ) STATE _____ (State)

Fill out description below. Mark back of picture 1 and 2.

COLOR—Picture No. 1
Hair _____
Eyes _____
Clothing _____

COLOR—Picture No. 2
Hair _____
Eyes _____
Clothing _____

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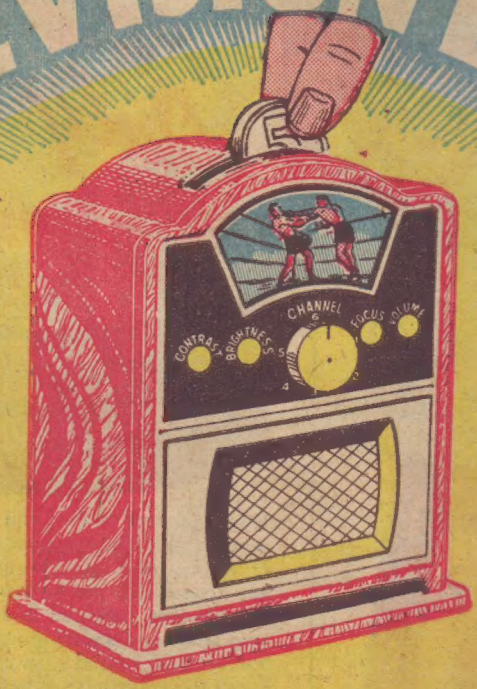

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ONLY $1.98

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AND WOW! WHAT A PICTURE! Whether you go for "zowie" shows (fights and such) or want a dream dance-team or peppy cartoon, you've got them—and MORE—right on this miracle Television Bank! What's more, shining convex lens over screen gives you the brightest, clearest, pictures yet!

TURN OF KNOB SHOWS NEXT EXCITING PICTURE! When you've looked your admiring fill at one picture, just turn center knob for next thrill-packed "show." Light goes out automatically as new picture appears! To light new picture, bank another coin. No less than SIX exciting pictures in all—a fight, dramatic dance team, tense rodeo scene, hilarious cartoon, swell figure skater and circus clown with his trick dog!

PUTS YOU "IN THE MONEY"—AND FAST! Your savings pile up PLENTY FAST—and with this marvelous new Television Bank! None of your friends, relatives or chance visitors can resist depositing enough to see the complete show! And with SIX wonderful pictures to see — you bank REAL MONEY just for letting them look!

IT'S A HONEY—IN EVERY DETAIL! You'll be the envy of all your friends with grand new Television Bank! A console model, it's an exact miniature of the most expensive sets. Complete even to the handsomely painted-on speaker grille and dials. All metal ruggedly built bank, 4¾" x 4", has smart mahogany finish. Automatic screen light powered by efficient, replaceable battery. GUARANTEED TO DELIGHT YOU, bank comes complete with bulb, battery and strong key for opening and emptying out your wealth of savings.

. . . BE THE FIRST IN YOUR CROWD TO HAVE THIS WONDERFUL NEW TELEVISION BANK!

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1556			
556			

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